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A Publication of the Park Practice Program

The Park Practice Program is a cooperative effort of the National Park Service and the National Recreation and Park Association.

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Membership in the Park Practice Program includes a subscription to all three publications and a library of back issues arranged in binders with indices and all publications for the remainder of the calendar year.

The initial membership fee is $80, annual renewal is $20. A separate subscription to *Trends* is $15 initially and $10 on renewal. Subscription applications and fees, and membership inquiries should be sent only to National Recreation and Park Association, 1601 N. Kent Street, Arlington, VA 22209.

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Introduction

by Ney C. Landrum

As the outdoor recreation needs of the American people continue to grow, the state parks stand out as an increasingly important factor in the nation's ability to respond to this burgeoning demand. It goes without saying that if the need is to be met adequately, *all* suppliers of public recreation must be counted on for their maximum contribution. Because of their numbers, diversity, and flexibility, the state parks are particularly well suited to play a vital role in this combined effort.

Although perhaps lacking the spectacular scope and grandeur of the national parks, the state parks, nonetheless, have their own great appeal for the visiting public. With almost 4,000 sites scattered throughout the country, the American tourist can take comfort in the fact that he is always within a few hours' drive of a state park—and he knows, too, that he can count on finding there uniformly high standards for personnel, facilities, and operating procedures. The immense popularity of the state parks is evident in the fact that, with less than a third as much acreage, they hosted more than twice as many visitors as the National Park System in 1977.

In the 1930s, CCC workers helped develop many state parks like Selkirk Shores in New York. NPS

Early Growth

The state parks have come a long way since their humble beginnings a half-century ago. They have made dramatic progress even since 1962, when Freeman Tilden published his classic work, *The State Parks—Their Meaning in American Life,* which did so much to sharpen the image of the state parks and define their role as a key element of the outdoor recreation supply spectrum. For the most part, the state parks were molded originally in the pattern of the larger, but less numerous, national parks. With a strong impetus from the Civilian Conservation Corps program, and with the competent guiding hand of the National Park Service, hundreds of outstanding natural, historic, and scenic areas throughout the country were acquired and appropriately developed in the 1930s and early 1940s, putting the majority of the states in the park business for the first time. Most of the "CCC" parks remain today as classic examples of sensitive and skillful park planning and design.

Flexibility and Stability

Today, however, the state park concept is notably different from that which ushered in the movement a few decades ago. Through the years, as the states began to recognize and accept broader responsibilities in the area of public recreation and leisure services, the state park programs became more diversified, sophisticated, and complex. The name "state park" itself lost much of its specific meaning and evolved into more of a generic term applied to a wide range of recreational areas and facilities administered under a single system. A state parks program in this modern age must be guided by the seemingly paradoxical principles of flexibility and stability—flexible enough to respond appropriately to the changing recreation needs of its constituency, but sufficiently stable to preserve the best from the past and build upon a proven base of traditional state park concepts.

National Association Established

As the state parks movement continued to expand, both in size and diversity, some of its early leaders recognized the need for closer communication and consultation among the states and their chief park administrators. The result was the establishment, in 1962, of the organization now called the National Association of State Park Directors.

Since that time, the Association has served as the principal forum for the exchange and discussion of ideas and information exclusively on state parks. In addition, the organization has attempted to foster and encourage professionalism among state park directors by providing opportunity for exposure to and association with their peers from around the country. As a result of pooling information and identifying common

problems, the Association also has been able to carry out research and data-gathering projects specifically in line with the state park directors' needs. A good example is the *Annual Information Exchange*, recently initiated to compile basic statistical data on state park operations.

Today, all fifty states have sound, thriving state park systems, marked by the highest degree of diversity and innovative approaches to both old and new problems of meeting public outdoor recreation demands. That characteristic diversity and innovativeness is abundantly illustrated in this issue of *Trends*. From visitor programs to resource management, from energy conservation to facility maintenance, from financial planning to public participation, these reports from around the country run the gamut of a modern state park system's daily concerns. Together, they reflect the pattern of creativity, dynamism, and resourcefulness that has made the state parks such an indispensable part of America's public outdoor recreation scene.

Recognizing a strong kinship with the national parks, the state parks, through the National Association of State Park Directors, have sought to develop and maintain a close liaison with the National Park Service over the years. The interest and receptiveness on the part of the federal agency has always been immensely gratifying. Devoting this issue of *Trends* to essentially state park subjects is yet another instance of the helpfulness and cooperation which the National Park Service has demonstrated so profusely in the past. The knowledge and information shared through this means will prove highly valuable to us all, and we are much indebted for the opportunity for professional improvement which has thus been made available to us.

Ney C. Landrum is Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks within Florida's Department of Natural Resources and the current President of the National Association of State Park Directors.

Message from National Park Service Director

by William J. Whalen, Director
National Park Service

The environmental revolution of the past few years has made millions of Americans aware of the fact that we no longer possess a huge expanse of pristine, bountiful lands that will meet our demands for development sites, farms, parks, wilderness, and recreation space. The message about the finiteness of the environment has finally reached us. We know our concern in the National Park Service is matched by our fellow-practitioners who administer state park systems.

By latest count, the National Park System included 320 areas. But there are ten times that many in state systems—more than 3,300 units devoted to nature conservation, protection of historic resources, and provision of a wide variety of recreational pursuits.

Recognizing the indispensable state role in the park and recreation field, the first Director of the National Park Service, Stephen T. Mather, was a prime mover in calling a conference in 1921 to encourage development of state park systems. This meeting resulted in the formation of the National Conference of State Park Directors which eventually became the National Society for Park Resources, one of the seven branches of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Under both names, the State Park Directors have provided encouragement and assistance to the National Park Service, particularly in producing the publications of the Park Practice Program. As one way of showing our appreciation, we are devoting this issue of *Trends* to highlight the programs and people of America's state park systems.

We're more than ever aware, today, of the need for close relations with all those who administer natural resources. The U.S. Congress made it clear that it expects the National Park Service to cooperate with others when it passed the National Park and Recreation Act of 1978. This legislation places many different types of areas in the national system, requiring new kinds of management and administrative skills.

In gearing up to handle such sites as the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, the Santa Monica mountains in California, the old factory buildings of Lowell, Massachusetts, and the Jean Lafitte area in Louisiana, the National Park Service cannot rely on traditional managing techniques but will be involved in cooperative—and often joint management—activities with non-federal jurisdictions.

We look forward eagerly to an enlarged era of cooperation with state and other jurisdictions. In the meantime, however, we thank the members of the state park services for their past help. We want you to know the National Park Service values your efforts and that we will continue to support our common goals of clean air and water, and protected resources for our visitors.

Annual Information Exchange

One of the projects initiated recently by the National Association of State Park Directors has been the *Annual Information Exchange*, a compilation of basic statistical data on state park operations.

The data were obtained through a questionnaire sent by the National Association. This questionnaire was completed by forty state park agencies. Certain agencies, because of time restrictions, did not return the questionnaire; therefore, they do not appear in the tables. With few exceptions, the reporting period covered by the questionnaire is July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978. The Division of State Parks, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, was responsible for the actual preparation of this informative document.

This report is not an attempt to identify cause and effect relationships. Nor does it provide a detailed analysis of the data. Its intent is to report the information in as straightforward a manner as possible. Charts detail statistical data in six categories: Inventory of Classification Categories; Facilities; Capital Outlay; Visitation and Use; Financing; and Personnel. We reprint below the summary notations and reproduce two of the charts which we feel may be of special interest to our readers.

Inventory

State Parks accounted for 61 percent of the total acreage of land within the average state park system. Next in line were State Recreation Areas with 21 percent, followed by State Natural Areas with 7 percent. State Forests contributed 4 percent to total land acreage, Water Use Areas contributed 2.5 percent, Miscellaneous Areas 2 percent, and Environmental Education Areas .05 percent. State Trails acreage was not measurable.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRESS

	A. LAND ACQUISITION				B. NEW CONSTRUCTION
	Number of acres purchased this year (1)	Number of acres acquired by other means this year (2)	Total acreage acquired during year (1 + 2)	Total cost of land purchased this year	Total cost of new construction initiated during year
AL	137	0	137	$ 49,394	$ 1,239,942
AK	650	1,400,000	1,400,650	1,819,319.46	1,547,593
AR	1,762	0	1,762	975,748	2,096,429
CA	17,416.37	2,905.94	20,322.31	32,265,711.27	6,722,400
CO	0	0	0	N.A.[1]	150,000
CT	115.72	83.78	199.5	154,150	1,541,592
DE	85.93	0	85.93	331,000	3,019,459
FL	3,059	12,287	15,346	20,263,013	5,086,509
GA	333.27	0	333.27	511,102	2,363,305
HI	63.7	4.3	68	1,358,000	4,822,000
ID	?[2]	?	?	?	?
IN	113.35	0	113.35	105,543	4,967,000
IA	447	0	447	447,000	921,688
KS	0	320	320	N.A.	436,204
KY	81	0	81	400,000	5,703,230
LA	70	51	121	748,480	11,626,000
ME	25	198	223	134,300	349,423
MD	1,740	0	1,740	6,960,000	6,593,580
MI	751.7	214.62	966.32	1,104,075	3,362,000
MN	2,205	2,763	4,968	1,669,061	6,587,000
MS	0	0	0	N.A.	?
MT	526.62	298.99	825.61	358,188.40	938,900
NE	0	0	0	N.A.	1,420,000
NV	?	?	?	451,680.28	652,659.33
NJ	1,165.868	14.485	1,180.353	1,634,584.59	10,100,000
NC	892	0	892	2,320,700	1,761,650
OH	74.19	0	74.19	81,968.71	1,809,480
OR	798.37	292.58	1,090.95	936,500	1,513,900
PA	711.65	24.8	736.45	635,629.59	7,188,433.50
RI	30.2	47	77.2	175,000	1,100,000
SC	0	1,500	1,500	N.A.	1,293,000
SD	0	0	0	N.A	930,000
TN	4,800	2,000	6,800	2,800,000	5,500,000
TX	2,741	679	3,420	3,372,531	3,610,950
VT	443	0	443	186,550	101,250
VA	833.937	0	833.937	1,166,924.75	770,455
WA	28.80	447.89	476.69	197,605	2,550,742.28
WV	831.74	779.93	1,611.67	219,891.58	1,225,000
WI	748.73	0	748.73	1,341,800	1,717,850
WY	230	110	340	52,000	195,000
Mean:	1,155.58	37,500.58	38,656.17	$ 2,582,650.01	$ 2,987,226.9

[1] N.A. - not applicable

[2] ? - denotes answer not available or not given

PERSONNEL

8. SALARIES

	Field Unit Employee[1] Ann. Salary Range		Field Unit Manager[2] Ann. Salary Range		Field Supervisor[3] Ann. Salary Range		Operations Chief[4] Ann. Salary Range	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
AL	$ 6,981	$ 10,777	$ 9,347	$19,604	$ N.A.*	$ N.A.	$18,005	$22,971
AK	15,684	22,956	22,116	26,580	24,984	30,048	31,176	37,464
AR	7,202	11,882	7,202	17,940	13,234	19,266	15,964	23,218
CA	14,160	15,528	16,224	29,880	14,820	29,820	28,488	37,872
CO	9,600	13,200	13,200	20,000	20,000	26,000	24,000	30,000
CT	8,644	11,265	11,909	17,292	15,609	19,041	27,000	27,000
DE	8,990	12,073	10,393	14,178	14,799	20,286	17,567	24,240
FL	8,205	10,690	11,943	15,890	13,405	17,936	18,207	24,680
GA	7,014	14,124	9,333	19,218	15,396	26,232	21,018	31,362
HI	8,088	10;344	8,916	16,308	17,088	21,564	18,732	28,608
IO	7,476	13,416	11,592	19,824	17,988	24,108	20,820	27,900
IN	8,476	11,102	14,482	18,486	16,380	20,878	18,486	23,686
IA	8,622	11,482	12,012	16,250	13,832	18,434	17,524	24,648
KS	9,000	13,500	13,500	19,000	N.A.	N.A.	18,500	23,500
KY	5,200	8,200	8,500	20,500	17,700	26,125	31,725	31,725
LA	7,752	9,192	9,276	16,812	15,228	20,568	15,228	22,704
ME	5,969	10,691	7,820	13,124	11,960	15,849	14,976	19,884
MO	9,651	15,557	11,862	19,444	N.A.	N.A.	18,508	24,311
MI	11,735	14,115	12,799	20,274	17,059	25,202	20,066	25,202
MN	8,244	10,104	12,168	16,896	17,544	23,616	19,606	26,455
MS	5,520	10,440	8,100	11,160	N.A.	N.A.	15,000	19,000
MT	6,635	8,102	11,731	15,207	18,129	22,414	N.A.	N.A.
NE	7,596	10,236	10,644	14,520	13,428	18,492	17,028	23,640
NV	9,796	14,603	11,164	17,523	13,957	23,160	N.A.	N.A.
NJ	6,027	13,916	11,365	22,672	N.A.	N.A.	23,631	31,900
NC	7,608	12,276	10,746	17,652	N.A.	N.A.	16,848	23,472
OH	8,500	13,000	10,000	15,000	9,000	13,000	20,000	25,000
OR	9,228	12,816	12,816	18,960	16,392	20,916	18,960	24,216
PA	8,900	15,374	11,364	21,849	18,328	23,922	20,910	27,286
RI	8,507	11,253	10,566	12,069	13,700	16,051	19,705	22,043
SC	6,500	10,500	8,000	18,000	13,000	18,400	13,000	18,400
SO	9,535	15,400	11,269	24,281	N.A.	N.A.	18,602	29,121
TN	7,476	11,040	9,672	15,132	10,092	14,040	15,356	23,604
TX	8,076	13,248	10,512	21,000	19,668	24,768	23,952	30,168
VT	7,826	12,298	N.A.	N.A.	11,544	16,302	15,236	22,230
VA	6,720	10,032	9,168	12,528	11,471	15,675	15,675	21,400
WA	8,160	15,756	11,760	22,248	18,216	25,632	22,428	28,620
WV	8,868	14,460	10,788	19,368	13,116	21,360	15,936	23,544
WI	7,600	9,400	12,200	14,000	11,900	15,300	17,200	24,100
WY	7,716	8,496	12,264	16,452	14,916	19,922	19,044	25,512
Mean:	$ 8,337	$ 12,321	$ 11,249	$18,131	$ 15,269	$ 21,039	$ 19,519	$ 25,307

[1]Field Unit Employee (Park Ranger) - the entry-level park employee, with broad public contact, interpretive and facility maintenance duties.

[2]Field Unit Manager (Park Superintendent/Manager) - the senior on-site employee who manages the park and supervises subordinate park ranger or other classes.

[3]Field Supervisor (District Manager/Supervisor) - the employee with responsibility for overseeing the operation of a number of parks in a given region or part of the state.

[4]Operations Chief (Central Office Line Supervisor) - the one employee in the central office whose principal task is the day-to-day direction of park system operations; normally the position to which field units report and which in turn reports to the director of the parks agency.

*N.A. - Not Applicable

Facilities

A greater number of year-round, rather than seasonal facilities, are offered in the state park systems reporting. The total number of facilities available in forty states are as follows:

- campsites, improved—105,440
- campsites, primitive—24,161
- lodge rooms—3,678
- cabins, cottages—3,020

Capital Outlay

It appears, from the averages, that a greater number of acres were "acquired by other means," as opposed to direct purchase by the park systems. The large figure reported by Alaska, however, accounts for the high acreage contributions. The average cost per acre of land purchased was $1,941.00.

Visitation and Use

The total number of non-fee versus fee visitors was 270,482,855 and 122,992,710 respectively. The total number of day visitors—376,946,134—was much greater than the number of overnight visitors—32,002,296. Campers accounted for 89 percent of the total number of overnight visitors.

Financing

State Legislative Appropriation accounted for 64 percent of the operating budget of the states reporting, followed by Facility-Generated Income (24 percent), Miscellaneous Funds (7 percent), Federal Monies (3 percent), and Tax and License Revenues (1 percent).

State Legislative Appropriation also accounted for the largest percentage of the Fixed Capital Outlay Budget by providing 37 percent of the funds. Miscellaneous Funds accounted for the next largest portion (31 percent), followed by Federal Funds (15 percent), Bonds (12 percent), and Facility-Generated Income (4 percent).

Horse Park (KY)

by Paula Hurtt

Just opened last summer, the Kentucky Horse Park is the only park of its kind in the world.

Dedicated to the horse and its relationship with mankind throughout history, the $27-million park, located just north of Lexington, features horses from all over the world, both live and in various exhibits.

The park boasts the world's only International Museum of the Horse. In a walk through time, the museum traces the horse in man's society from earliest time until today.

Visitor Involvement

Unlike many museums, the International Museum of the Horse involves the visitor in many of its displays. Computer banks, operated by the visitor, screen information on the world's various breeds of horses. Other displays ask the visitor to push a button or work some other device to operate graphic moving parts illustrating the horse's gaits or traditional riding silk designs.

The Kentucky Horse Park also features a movie, "Thou Shalt Fly Without Wings," which beautifully captures the magic and mystery the horse can evoke.

Campground and Horse-In Sport Facilities

The Kentucky Horse Park has complete recreational facilities including a 260-site campground with pool, tennis courts, laundry, bathhouse, and RV hookups. A full-time recreation director plans daily activities for campers.

The Kentucky Horse Park has complete horse-in sport facilities including a half-mile (.8 km) track with a quarter-mile (.4 km) chute for thoroughbred, harness, and quarter horse racing. There are also a steeplechase course, dressage ring, and cross-country course where the 1978 World Three-Day Equestrian Event Championships were held for the first time in the United States. A polo field and show horse ring, likewise, are available.

1

2

3

1 *Kentucky's Horse Park includes complete horse-in sport facilities.*

2 *International Museum of the Horse actively involves visitors in many of its displays.*

3 *The park, with its wide range of facilities, has hosted world championship equestrian events.*

4 *A larger-than life likeness of Man O' War greets visitors at the park entrance.*

These facilities often are used for non-horse events, including high school cross-country track meets, Girl and Boy Scout jamborees, dog shows, and antique car shows.

Visitors to the Kentucky Horse Park may view Man o'War's grave and admire his larger-than-life likeness at the park entrance. Then they may choose between walking and horse-drawn tours, which give them the opportunity to experience the real-life sights, sounds, and smells of a working horse farm. Visitors can see the care and training of horses firsthand, and the crafts of the farrier and harness maker. They even can visit the horses in the world's longest horse barn. Horseback and pony rides also are available for those who want to get really close to horses.

For day visitors, several picnic areas are scattered throughout the park, located in low-traffic pastoral settings with shelters and picnic tables. Or visitors may enjoy lunch at the Horse Park's own restaurant, which serves the food for which Kentucky state parks have become so famous.

4

Truly a fresh idea, the Kentucky Horse Park offers a recreational experience unlike any other in the world.

Paula Hurtt is on the Public Information staff of the Kentucky Department of Parks.
Photos from Kentucky Dept. of Parks.

From Rails to Trails (WI)

by Loren Thorson

Nowadays in Wisconsin, there's a different kind of traveler on the right-of-ways where steam locomotives once chugged.

According to Don Mackie, Director of Wisconsin's state park system, the conversion of abandoned railroad right-of-ways into state trails has been "one of the hottest things to hit our state park system." These trails, according to Mackie, are being used for biking and hiking in the summertime and for snowmobiling in the wintertime. "They are extremely popular," Mackie states, "and the public is clamoring constantly for more such trails."

Wisconsin was the first state to implement the concept of converting abandoned railroad beds into recreational trails. In 1965, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad advised the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of the availability of a 32-mile (51.2 km) stretch of railroad between the communities of Elroy and Sparta. This segment of railroad right-of-way passed through some of Wisconsin's most scenic areas and over many rivers with such enchanting names as Kickapoo and Baraboo. This stretch also included three tunnels. Finally, the 32-mile (51.2 km) stretch was purchased for $12,000 — a price which, Mackie claims, may "have been the best deal since the purchase of Manhattan Island."

Subsequently, this right-of-way became known as the Elroy-Sparta State Trail. Originally envisioned as a hiking path, development concepts changed rapidly as bikers started using the trail even while its surface conditions were less than acceptable. A search for materials to provide a suitable surface for cycling finally was concluded after several years of experiments. Limestone screenings spread to a depth of 3 to 5 inches (7.5 - 12.5 cm) with a final compaction proved to provide an excellent riding surface and, generally, was resistant to adverse weather conditions. Limestone screenings also gave the trail a look that was compatible with the surrounding area. Many users liken the trail to a "country road at the turn of the century."

Because of this initial success, Wisconsin's state park system now includes eight former railbeds. Five currently are operational. Four of these have been designated as a "National Recreation Trail" by the U.S. Department of the Interior under the National Trails Act.

Relations with Trail Neighbors

Local communities and adjacent landowners are always a bit apprehensive about the purchase of a railroad bed for development into a recreational trail. "This is a natural reaction," according to Mackie, "but fears rapidly subside once the trail becomes operational. The trail user, in our experience, has been a person appreciative of the magnificent scenery provided by these trails . . . so much so that vandalism on the trail or to adjacent property is nil." The relationship between communities, the landowner, and the trail user is at such an all-time high that rail users now rate one of the positive assets of these trails to be the "friendliness of the townspeople and landowners."

Costs for acquiring and developing such trails have increased rapidly since the Elroy-Sparta purchase. To date, Wisconsin has invested over $2 million in the acquisition and development of eight trails. To cover part of the yearly operational costs, Wisconsin, in 1978, instituted a trail user fee. This fee is applicable to adults of ages 18 and over. The bikers purchase a trail admission ticket available at many outlets in communities along a trail.

Reaction to the user fee by bikers generally has been positive, according to Mackie. Most trail users understand that unless they help pay part of the yearly maintenance and operational costs, development of future trails will have to be curtailed because of budget limitations.

Loren Thorson is Chief of the Recreation Program Section of the Wisconsin State Parks.

Cyclists enjoy Wisconsin's Elroy-Sparta State Trail, once an abandoned railroad right-of-way.
WI Dept. of Natural Resources Photo

Artpark (NY)

by Orin Lehman

Artpark began as an experiment in 1974 by the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation, and has just begun its sixth season as a public center for the arts and recreation. Located near Niagara Falls at Lewiston, New York, Artpark is a 172-acre (69 ha) facility representing the first large-scale effort by a state government to present cultural events readily accessible and easily affordable to a general audience.

The Artpark example has shown that public funds and land can be utilized to bring more and more people into contact with the arts and, importantly, to expand the potential for creative activity in all areas of contemporary life.

Innovative Arts Programming

At Artpark, visitors have the opportunity to attend outstanding theater, ballet, opera, modern dance, even a jazz festival, at $4 a performance ($3 for lawn tickets). Visitors also may enjoy the work and ideas of craftspersons, performers, and artists-in-residence, and participate in art-in-process. Traditional recreational activities—hiking, picnicking, and fishing also are available.

During its 1978 five-month operating season (May thru September), Artpark attracted 504,000 people—an increase of 54 percent over 1977. The theater presented *Oklahoma!, La Boheme, Il Trovatore,* and *Don Giovanni,* as well as five weeks of dance featuring the Joffrey Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Special events included a month-long poetry festival, a New York State Wine Weekend, and a seven-day International Indian Pow Wow.

Citizen Participation

In addition to its innovative arts programming, this state park has pioneered in other important areas involving "citizen participation." Artpark has:

- Made the theater and park grounds available to local cultural groups. In 1978, 25 groups used the facilities, playing to an audience of 108,000 during Artpark Spring, May 4 - June 18. Purposes were for audience development, fund raising, and performing experience.
- Provided an on-school-time program and offered 15 performances during school hours at a reduced ticket price. Over 26,000 students from 145 schools attended these performances.
- Sought out interested and concerned parties who formed the Committee on Handicapped Accessibility. With their advice and guidance, Artpark has begun to implement a number of adjustments needed in programming, facilities, and attitudes. Thus, gradually, the handicapped have come to know that Artpark is a place in which they can be comfortable

An Artpark performer delights his audience. NYS Office of Parks & Recreation

It is hoped that Artpark will continue innovating new programs and refining those which have worked so well in the past and that it will continue to serve the needs of its patrons.

Artpark's Executive Director David Midland says, "It is a credit to the State of New York that government support has blended so comfortably with artistic freedom and experimentation."

Orin Lehman is Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation.

Dune Buggy Park (MI)

by James M. Hane

Park attracts dune buggy lovers from neighboring states as well as nearby Michigan cities. MI Dept. of Natural Resources

What's special about sand dunes? If nature study is "your thing," there's no better outdoor classroom! If you are an artist or hiker, you would consider them visual delights. But to the owners of Michigan's 80,000 registered off-road vehicles, they are much more—the only dune buggy area in the state!

Sand dunes dot the state's Great Lakes shorelines. Some, such as those at Silver Lake State Park, tower 200 or more feet (60 m) above the pounding waves of Lake Michigan. Silver Lake State Park, near Mears, includes more than four miles (6.4 km) of Great Lake shoreline among its 2,700 acres (1,080 ha). It is a rather typical dune park, yet relatively close to the state's population centers.

Nobody dune buggied when the park first was established in 1920. In those days, off-road meant getting stuck. Who wanted that!

By the early 1950s, locals in Mears had discovered the fun of dune buggying. They convinced state park officials to legitimize buggy use in 200 acres (80 ha) of the park.

Environmental Safeguards

To safeguard the park's environment, the portion selected for buggy use contained merely open blowing sand. It was totally devoid of dune grass or any other vegetation. This was an area where wind and rain would quickly repair evidence of man's impact.

The views were spectacular. The slopes, both gentle and dramatic, afforded varying challenges to riders. At that time, most sported conventional, often home-made but beautifully crafted "custom jobs" similar to those illustrated here.

Word of Michigan's only dune buggy park quickly spread. Soon thousands from nearby states were mingling with crowds no longer local. Thousands more came as observers. Growth, however, brought health and safety problems. Those knowledgeable cited overuse and misuse. Whispers of a possible shutdown were heard.

Firmer Controls Alleviate Problems

Park staff, with the assistance of organized ORV Club users, rallied to save the site and bring the dune buggying under better control. Their message sounded loud and clear—shape up or ship out!

To reduce the "back up" on local access roads, parking lots were increased and expanded. Fees were introduced and the number of buggies admitted at one time was limited. The designated dune buggy area was clearly posted and fencing with steel cables added at critical points.

Health problems were solved by simply adding toilet facilities and drinking fountains for the dune buggy area users.

To tone down noise, mufflers were required and a decibel limit set—no more than 86 decibels at right angles and 50 feet (15 m) from the vehicle.

Safety and Law Enforcement

As a safety precaution, roll bars now are required on vehicles in all jump competitions. And these "special events" are operated by clubs which must obtain use permits.

Most of the dune buggy area users seem more interested in climbing than in jumping. To prevent climbing vehicles from getting stuck, floatation tires— or regular tires deflated to about 4 lbs (1.8 kg) of pressure—are required.

Safety flags, similar to those often placed on bicycles, are mandatory at all times, so vehicles can be seen coming over the dunes. The flags must be mounted on masts stiff enough that they do not swerve below an 8-foot (2.4 m) height when the vehicle is under acceleration.

The most significant change in recent years has been the growing number of four-wheel-drive vehicles, particularly trucks, using the area to do "their thing." Since these users tend not to belong to organized ORV clubs, they are somewhat harder to control. Many of the citations issued involve four-wheel-drive vehicle owners.

Rules for all dune buggy area users are posted prominently at the park entrance. Rangers patrol the area regularly and vehicles are spot checked. Offenders are issued citations—usually for $15 or $25. They also are asked to leave the park and barred from returning for five days. On peak-use weekends, Conservation Officers assist the park staff in patrolling and enforcing regulations. If *any* behavior is observed that endangers other people or the environment, the offender is asked to leave the park.

As in many parks, alcohol has been a concern. A ban against alcoholic beverages has improved matters somewhat, but beer can be smuggled into the park fairly easily, especially in four-wheel-drive vehicles. Many of the arrests made are in connection with the alcohol ban.

Some people have been "caught" out of bounds in the pedestrian zone—still a substantial portion of the park. But more often, pedestrians amble into the dune buggy area to watch. So far, there have been no accidents involving dune buggies in the pedestrian zone, but this is an area that must be watched carefully.

A few injuries do occur in the dune buggy area—most often from encounters with unexpected small ridges, about 4 feet (1.2 m) high, that form overnight. Four-wheel-drive vehicles may hit these hills hard enough to break their front differential—necessitating a rather expensive (about $1,400) repair. In the instances where people are injured, park staff immediately transports the ambulance crew up into the dunes in a pickup patrol truck.

No Conflicting Use Problems

A popular site within the dune buggy area is the Lake Michigan beach. Here users, many accompanied by their families, stop to picnic, swim, or socialize. In fact, park officials estimate that only about 15 percent of the people admitted to the area actually are riding over the dunes at any one time. Dune buggying truly is a family-oriented, "socializing" activity at the park.

So far, there have been no problems concerning conflicting use. Park officials feel this is so because of the park's large size, the clear separation of dune buggy and pedestrian zones, and the fact that the number and noise levels of the dune buggies are controlled.

Any serious problems? Not really. Dune buggying at Silver Lake is alive and well.

Want more information? Park Manager Roy Viterna has been the man in charge for 16 years. Write or phone him at: Silver Lake State Park, Route 1, Box 67, Mears, MI 49436. Phone: 616-873-3083.

James M. Hane is in charge of Advance and Special Studies within the Parks Division of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources.

Empire State Games (NY)

by Orin Lehman

Opening ceremonies of the 1978 Empire State Games attracted more than 5,000 athletes, officials, coaches, and trainers.

Last August, New York State conducted one of the largest amateur sports events in history—the Empire State Games. Administered by the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation, the Games provided New Yorkers—50,000 of them—an opportunity to compete in a mini-Olympics. Regional competitions were held throughout the spring and summer, and the 5,000 finalists competed in more than 30 Olympic sports.

The Games, the first of their kind in the nation, were patterned after the Summer Olympics, although some regulations were modified to allow for greater participation by women and athletes of high school age. The purpose of the Games was threefold: 1) to encourage and promote athletic competition among the residents of New York State, 2) to foster an incentive for the improvement of amateur sports, and 3) to develop public recognition of the dedicated amateur athlete.

The Games had the full support of the Governor, the Legislature (which allocated more than $700,000), state agencies, local governments, business, and civic organizations. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded at the six regional competitions, and the top qualifiers in each sport were invited to participate in the final, statewide competition in Syracuse.

Food, lodging, and transportation were provided free of charge to the finalists, and each competitor received an Empire State Games uniform and warm-up suit. Starting with an opening ceremony and a

NYS Office of Parks & Recreation

'torch lighting" in Archbold Stadium, the athletic contests ran like clockwork. The competition was as spirited as the level of sportsmanship was high. Everyone connected with the Games agreed they were an unforgettable experience.

The Office of Parks and Recreation administered the Games with the cooperation of the State Athletic Commission and the New York State Commission on Sports and Winter Olympics. It was, however, the work of the hundreds of volunteers who helped organize and run the competitions that proved indispensable to the Empire State Games.

Orin Lehman is Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation.

The Latch String's Out (KS)

by Norma Northrup

"Welcome, we hope you enjoy your stay." This is the friendly greeting which you will receive at three Kansas state park campground areas this summer. The latest innovation in Kansas is an expansion of a pilot program initiated in 1978 at Lake Scott State Park, to be continued in 1979 at Lake Scott, Lake Crawford, and Perry State Parks.

Early in 1978, representatives of the Good Sam organization, a national camping club, approached the park authority with a proposal to assist the state park employees in campground operations. In exchange for free camping privileges, club members offered to greet visitors, assist in parking the camping vehicles, collect the overnight camping fees, and do minor maintenance in the campground area.

Camp Hosts—A Welcome Innovation

The park authority knew a good thing when it saw one. After several meetings and ironing out of details, a pilot program was established to operate for one year. Its success has been overwhelming. Park patrons are delighted with the friendly folks who greet them and keep a watchful eye on their RV while they fish and swim and boat, who keep the area free of litter and debris, the shower and toilet facilities clean and stocked with tissue.

A problem with the hot water shower? The electrical hookup not functioning? Just mention this to one of the camp hosts in the park authority vest, and a message is on its way to the park manager for quick repairs. And the patrons don't have to leave the camping area to insure that maintenance personnel soon will learn of the problem.

In return for the helping hands of the Good Sams, the park authority provides one camping pad with utility hookups and identifying vests with name tags to the camp hosts. The Good Sam members obtain their own annual state park permit and many provide CB radios for even speedier responses to emergencies by park staff and law enforcement personnel.

"GOOD SAM"
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE CLUB

Each Good Sam family that participates in the program agrees to work one week in the park during the summer season. Each Sunday afternoon, different faces appear. Departing park hosts give a quick resume of their stint to the newcomers, wave goodbye, and start home.

Hosts from Many Backgrounds

Many of the camp hosts are retired persons, and they especially enjoy their week's tour of duty. They are staunch supporters of the Kansas state parks and feel a particular sense of satisfaction in performing a much-needed public service and relieving state employees of certain time-consuming, albeit minor duties.

But not all of the Good Sam hosts are retired. Nor are they all couples or families. Some of the participants are workers who donate a week of vacation time to this worthy project. One of the 1978 hosts was a widow who couldn't bring herself to give up the enjoyable camping trips she and her husband had shared. One was a handicapped gentleman, confined to a wheelchair. He was everywhere, smiling, shaking hands, sharing a campfire recipe, and generally endearing himself to campers who were fortunate enough to schedule their trip during his week at Lake Scott. Several of the hosts were repeaters, serving two or three separate shifts during the summer. And they all had a ball!

The park manager at Lake Scott State Park, as well as other park employees, is eloquent in his praise of the camp host program. He's "darned if he knows how he got along without 'em." Kansas is sold on the concept of the camp hosts and hopes eventually to see the Good Sams and other camping organizations serving in all the state parks.

Norma Northrup is Administrative Assistant to Lynn Burris, Jr., Director of the Kansas State Park and Resources Authority.

Instant Camping (OH)

by Phyllis O'Neil

Dubbed "instant camping" by one newspaper, the Rent-A-Camp program developed by the Ohio Division of Parks and Recreation has proven to be a financially successful and consistently popular program.

Rent-A-Camp provides families who do not own camping equipment an opportunity to experience tent camping in an Ohio state park. The program was developed to allow noncampers to become familiar with both camping equipment and the activity of camping; another goal of the program was to encourage the use and appreciation of Ohio's state park system. Rent-A-Camp sites are equipped with a 9′ × 12′ (270 × 360 cm) tent, cots, a dining fly, a cooler, lantern, camp stove, and other camping equipment. They may be reserved up to seven days at $8 per day.

A typical rent-a-camp site. OH Div. of Parks & Recreation

Sites include all necessary camping equipment. OH Div. of Parks & Recreation

Rent-A-Camp Sites Accessible to Urban Areas

During the first season in 1973, five state parks operated with four Rent-A-Camp sites in each camp area. The parks were selected in part because of their accessibility to Ohio's major urban areas. That year, a total of 1,021 nights were reserved by Rent-A-Campers. The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association granted the new program the Outstanding Recreation Program of 1973 award.

Since its first year, Rent-A-Camp has been expanded to 10 state parks, with 2,149 nights reserved in 1978, accommodating over 4,000 people. During the 1979 season (which runs from the second Friday in May until the third Sunday of September) 41 Rent-A-Camp sites will be available in 12 state parks.

Reservations are made through each individual park office; telephone reservations *without* deposits will be taken for the first time this year, in an effort to streamline the paperwork for both the park staff and prospective campers. When a camper arrives, a member of the park staff inventories and explains the use of the equipment at the site. When the camper leaves, the equipment is briefly inventoried and the camper is asked to fill out an evaluation sheet. Vandalism and theft of the equipment have been minimal since the program's inception.

The evaluations have been significant in showing:

- Most campers learned about the program through newspapers; the second most frequently cited source of information was word-of-mouth, from family or friends.
- Hiking and swimming were the activities Rent-A-Campers participated in most often during their camping, followed by fishing, boating, naturalist programs, bicycling, and "relaxing."
- Most people stayed for two nights, generally Fridays and Saturdays.
- 39 percent stated that their stay was *not* their first camping experience.

The following comments are typical of the testimonials we received from many Rent-A-Campers:

"This represents one of the best uses of my Ohio tax monies. The program allows families such as ours, who have limited time to camp, the opportunity to do so without the investment of the equipment."

The Roberts Family, New Lexington, OH

"We were happy to be able to rent a tent — all ready, set up, and equipped so that we could so easily introduce the children to camping in a free weekend without investing money."

Frances Stafford, Terrace Park, OH

"All the equipment seemed to be of very good quality. And the tent was very spacious for our family of four."

Donna Laske, Akron, OH

Sturdy Equipment, Simple to Operate

The selection of the equipment by the Division of Parks and Recreation evolved over the first few years' experience. This camping equipment is subjected to much heavier than normal usage, and the old adage of "you get what you pay for" continues to hold true.

Not only is very sturdy equipment desirable, simplicity of operation is crucial. For instance, kerosene lanterns eventually were discarded for sealed battery-operated lanterns, which are more reliable, easier to operate, and have fewer potential user hazards. Platforms for the tents on all Rent-A-Camp sites are being constructed; we have found that elevating the tent floor from the ground doubles the life of the tent. The perhaps quixotic search for the "perfect" cot and camp stove continues.

The Division of Parks and Recreation will continue to expand the Rent-A-Camp program annually, and looks forward to a continuing warm response from its public.

Phyllis O'Neil is a Public Information Specialist in the Division of Parks and Recreation within Ohio's Department of Natural Resources.

Youth hostel complements facilities in Nockamixon State Park. PA Bureau of State Parks

Youth Hostels (PA)

by Gary Smith

In 1968, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania officially agreed to permit the County of Bucks to continue operation of Weisel Park Youth Hostel in the newly acquired Nockamixon State Park. This hostel became the start of a growing system of hostels in Pennsylvania state parks.

In 1972, a building lease was signed with the American Youth Hostels, Inc. (AYH) to operate a youth hostel in Ridley Creek State Park, located in an area of exceptional historic significance. The park is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. Additionally, the youth hostel at Ohiopyle State Park, near the exciting whitewater of the Youghiogheny River in western Pennsylvania, is almost complete. And three more hostels are planned for Creek, Evansburg, and Tyler State Parks, all near Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania has benefited from its association with hostels. Our legal agreements with AYH are written to keep our involvement of workers, time, and materials to a minimum. Operation and maintenance of all our hostels is the responsibility of the leasing organization. So far, we have found AYH to be a very professional organization.

Hostels definitely seem to complement the outdoor recreation activities which are so popular in our state parks. They provide indoor support facilities for hikers, birders, canoeists, cyclists, and other recreationists. The hostel approach combines a mix of camping and hotel accommodations providing eating and sleeping space for many more visitors.

Historic preservation is another factor involved in our use of youth hostels. Adapting historic structures to youth hostels is a way to put new life into old buildings. Several American hostels, in addition to the one at Ridley Creek State Park, are located in buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

Economic benefits of hosteling also merit consideration. Hosteling is a growing form of tourism. The AYH estimates that 2.2 million dollars were spent in 1977 by hostelers on food, lodging, and incidental expenses. Some 168,000 overnight stays were made in over 200 American hostels. Hostelers purchase outdoor recreation equipment, transportation to and from the starting and ending points of their trips, and admission fees to parks, amusements, and museums. Providing for hostelers' needs, therefore, makes increasing economic sense for all park agencies.

Should you have questions on the development of youth hostels in Pennsylvania state parks, please feel free to contact William C. Forrey, Director, Bureau of State Parks, Harrisburg, PA. Or phone (717) 787-6640.

Gary Smith is a Park Superintendent in the Operations Section of the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

Mid-Winter Bird Count (SC)

by Brian Elliott Cassie

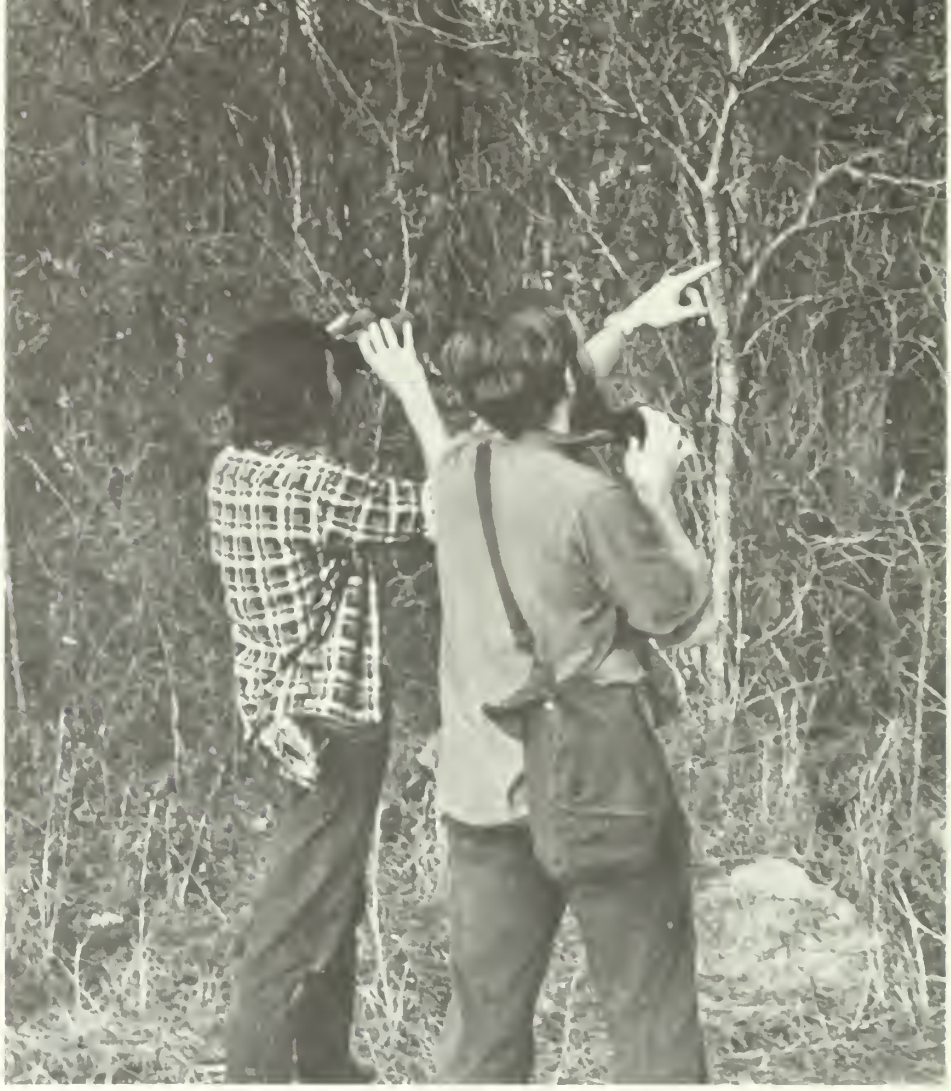
Three hardy souls tramped the shoreline of Clark Hill Reservoir, their bodies fairly well frozen from their moustaches to the tips of their toes. Another group studied and hunted the marshes and dunes of our southern coast. A third party crept stealthily through pinewoods and along backroads on an early morning search. They went in troops and they went singly, and when they were done they had completed one of the most unorthodox park programs in a long time, and had fun doing it. With binoculars and note pads and long hours of enthusiastic search, they made the first South Carolina State Parks Mid-Winter Bird Count an unqualified success.

The Nature Section organized the count to gather information on winter bird populations in our various parks. The accumulated data from this count will be of great significance in future nature interpretive programs, and hopefully, will help to develop a better picture of South Carolina's wintering bird population as a whole.

The count was held in fourteen parks: Aiken, Cheraw, Croft, Hickory Knob, Hunting Island, Huntington Beach, Kings Mountain, Lynches River, Oconee, Rivers Bridge, Sadlers Creek, Santee, Sesquicentennial, and Table Rock, totalling 40,000 acres (16,000 ha). These parks were chosen to provide the greatest geographic diversity, with two coastal locations, three more in the coastal plain, three in the sandhills, four in the piedmont area, and two in our mountains.

A Wealth of Species and Individuals Sighted

This program, held on consecutive Saturdays (January 29 and February 5), attracted seventy-seven participants from four states and one foreign country. Weather conditions were generally less than ideal, with cool temperatures and strong winds prevailing, but the birds were not uncooperative. Our counters, some of whom started their "bird hunting" well before dawn to listen for owls, tallied 139 species and 18,866 individuals. While these numbers may seem staggeringly high to many, we feel they represent a characteristic cross-section of the wealth of avifauna (birds) that visit our parks annually.



Bird watchers canvass all areas of a park identifying and recording all species they spot SC Div. of State Parks

Hunting Island afforded the greatest show, with both the highest number of species (93) and individuals (5,143) seen, although Huntington Beach was close behind in both categories. Several unusual and seldom-seen birds were found on our count. Those who were in the field before dawn were rewarded with the calls, and occasional sightings, of screech, great horned, and barred owls — a total of nineteen were recorded. Other unexpected sightings included a red-necked grebe and three ipswich sparrows at Huntington Beach, a bald eagle at Santee, and both yellow-throated and blackburnian warblers at Hunting Island. The blackburnian, a rare fall migrant in the coastal plain, had never before been recorded in South Carolina during the winter, and was indisputably the prize find.

With a successful winter count completed, plans are being tentatively drawn up for a summer program. With expanded park coverage and greater participation, both of which we will be striving for, the summer bird count should be rewarding to participants and park personnel alike.

The Mid-Winter Bird Count reflects the most popular new direction in South Carolina's park programming — a trend toward active participation in resource-based recreation. People who used to enjoy park resources passively, now are seeking active recreational outlets in the natural resources area, creating a growing demand for such innovations as the state's Outdoor Skills, Low Country Lifestyles, and Mini-Summit programs.

Brian Elliott Cassie is an Historic Resources Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

Natural History Program (MO)

by Paul Nelson

Missouri's Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, has created an exciting new program to help strike a better balance between the conflicting demands of 20th-century development and natural resource preservation to meet the needs of the public. The new Natural History Program, responsible for natural resources management and related public user services, has a twofold goal:

- to stimulate research and develop management and public use policies that will maximize the best use of the state's natural resources,
- to boost public awareness of resources-related issues.

Research

The new program recognizes research as a vital component in developing management guidelines for special state park resources. Research is the diagnostic tool a park manager needs to direct development and planning.

The Natural History Program is collecting research information such as floristic surveys, wildlife population studies, ecological assessments, and rare and endangered species sites on its state parks for purposes of implementing effective resource management policies. Research data, likewise, is an important prerequisite to providing appropriate materials for interpretation and public information.

Management and Public Use Policies

Specific management zones and public use policies developed by the Natural History Program fall into the following categories:

- *Natural Areas.* The Department of Natural Resources has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation to administer a comprehensive statewide Natural Areas Program. Through research and inventory of over 90,000 acres (36,000 ha) of state parks, about 15 scientifically valuable, undisturbed natural features and geological sites have been identified, some of national significance. The policy and management guidelines established by DNR assures that these special areas will be preserved.
- *Wild Areas.* The program has established a policy ensuring that sizable undeveloped lands on Missouri state parks are preserved for certain public uses including nature study, backpacking, horseback riding, swimming, and fishing. At present, six such wild areas meet specific criteria for inclusion in the system.

  It cannot be stressed enough that park managers identify suitable tracts of lands to meet the individual needs of various backcountry user groups. Park improvements and related development including roads, buildings, and power lines render many areas unsuitable for these types of uses. By identifying larger tracts of undeveloped land, a state park system can accommodate the increasing demands for wilderness-related activities on its state lands and at the same time preserve the natural features and appearance of its parks.
- *Special Ecological Management.* Interest in the protection of rare and endangered species' habitat and unique plant and animal communities, and in providing park visitors with increased chances to observe wildlife have resulted in the development of special ecological management practices.

  In this area, research, again, has been crucial. Research has provided valuable data for management to use in identifying and ensuring the protection of these resources. Missouri state parks have become an important resource for universities and other educational institutions; and they, in turn, are providing our program with products the agency can use to make proper management decisions.

The program will preserve sizable areas of undeveloped land for public uses. Mark Blackwood

The Natural History Program involves inventory, evaluation, and data management of the state's natural elements to aid in determining priorities for acquisition and preservation; outdoor planning; implementation of research; and preparation of impact statements. This information will be especially valuable in developing a State Park Plan as a part of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which serves as a planning document for future development and acquisition of state park lands. Professional staff responsible for the development and coordination of the overall operation for obtaining this information include the Natural Areas Coordinator, his assistant, and the Natural History Program Director.

Public Awareness

The Natural History Program recognizes that the agency's success is best measured in public awareness. The backbone of a comprehensive public awareness effort tailored around individual needs comes through provocative interpretive programs at individual parks, environmental interpretation at local schools, and use of media. The program employs 13 full-time naturalists and 20 to 30 seasonal interpreters functioning under the line authority of a Chief Naturalist.

Particularly valuable in boosting public awareness is the continued assistance of the professional park manager in affecting positive visitor relationships. Whether a park superintendent, ranger, maintenance worker, or naturalist — all park staff members are public servants fulfilling services and promoting wise stewardship of their state park's full resource potential. They answer the questions, direct visitor access, explain an agency's program, respond to visitor needs — whether camper, canoer, horseback rider, backpacker, birdwatcher, or researcher.

The combination of all these responsibilities in the Natural History Program is unique in the history of the Missouri State Park System and the Department of Natural Resources. Through a well-balanced, viable program, the Department hopes to assure park visitors a place to experience nature, increase usage of the backcountry, and preserve for future generations examples of the state's rare and vanishing natural heritage.

For additional information about this program and its services contact: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Natural History Program, Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Paul Nelson is Natural Areas Coordinator in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation.

Manatee Refuge (FL)

by John C. Waldron

Park personnel help monitor the number and behavior of manatees that winter in Blue Spring. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

As the cool November air moves south, brushing across the state of Florida, an interesting group of animals begins to appear in the spring run at Blue Spring State Park. As these animals arrive singly, or in small groups, the park rangers and federal biologists begin to take careful notes on them. After several weeks, the entire population will have returned for what park personnel term "The Manatee Season."

The West Indian manatee, also known as the seacow, is an aquatic mammal which inhabits the coastal and fresh waterways of Florida during the warmer summer months. But, when winter arrives and these waterways may dip below 68 degrees Fahrenheit (20°C), the warm-blooded manatee must seek out one of 25 known warm-water refuge areas to escape death from pneumonia.

Florida's First Designated Manatee Sanctuary

Blue Spring Run appears to be the chief warming station along the St. Johns River. During the winter months, the river temperature averages 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15°C), thus forcing the manatees to utilize the constant 72 degree (22°C) water temperature of the spring run.

Blue Spring State Park is not merely a warm-water refuge; it also has been designated as the first sanctuary for the protection of manatees in Florida. As a sanctuary, the spring run can be banned to all motorized craft. Data suggest that boat collisions with manatees contribute to over half the park's known human-related manatee mortalities. The Florida Department of Natural Resources has also set up a half-mile (.8 km) sanctuary on the St. Johns River where boats are prohibited from exceeding speeds over an idle. This regulation is enforced by cooperating law enforcement agencies.

Research and Interpretive Programs

Due to the clarity of the spring water, Blue Spring State Park is one of the few places where manatees can be seen easily and studied in their natural habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has set up a research project at the park in which state park personnel help monitor the number of manatees utilizing the area, their social behavior, and new wounds inflicted by boats on manatees feeding in the river.

In an attempt to create a better public understanding and awareness of the ecology and status of the manatee, park rangers have set up an interpretive slide presentation which is given twice daily to visitors. The program informs the public as to why the manatees visit the spring run, explores their social behavior, and explains the dangers facing manatees today.

Through the interpretive programs and research being conducted at Blue Spring State Park, management hopes that man, the only real enemy of the manatee, will learn more about this docile animal and its behavior. Then, perhaps, future management techniques can be established to help save this unique, endangered species.

John C. Waldron is an Interpretive Ranger at Blue Spring State Park, in Orange City, Florida.

Low-Budget, High-Quality Restoration (NB)

by Roye Lindsay

Restoration is a demanding and exacting exercise at historical sites such as Nebraska's Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park. Essential for enhanced visitor understanding of history and for protection against the deterioration of historic structures, restoration is a labor-intensive, highly technical area of historic interpretation. However, accurate and technically correct restorations need not be multi-hundred thousand dollar expenditures.

By using professional staff, seasonal employees, and volunteers at Fort Hartsuff, we keep labor costs to a minimum. Seasonal employees work alongside skilled craftsmen, learning restoration techniques on an apprenticeship basis.

Three structures have been restored at Fort Hartsuff since 1976. Our costs proved to be far below architectural estimates. Estimated costs of restoration by contractual means exceeded $230,000. Actual appropriated material costs came to $25,600. Labor costs fell under normal park operations, using seasonal employees.

Our near five dollar return for each dollar invested was accomplished with no compromise in quality of restoration. Thorough research of National Archives, State Historical Society, and local record sources assured a solid base of knowledge for restoration planning. Dedication by every skilled artisan and apprentice contributed to a quality of workmanship which probably could not be matched by disinterested contractors motivated solely by dollar profit.

Adaptive Use of Quartermaster Stables

While planning the restoration of the historic Quartermaster Stables, the need for a modern maintenance facility at Fort Hartsuff was recognized. This particular structure demanded immediate restoration due to rapid and accelerating deterioration.

A large, imposing structure, 30' (9 m) wide by 100' (30 m) long, the Quartermaster Stables was built in 1874. Materials used in its construction were grout (a very weak concrete mix) for the 13" (32.5 cm) thick walls, and locally cut and sawn pine and cedar for the roofing system, stalls, and two interior rooms.

Lack of capital improvement funding for a new maintenance facility, coupled with our desire to maintain the historical integrity of Fort Hartsuff, prompted our decision to implement an adaptive use restoration of the Quartermaster Stables. Lengthy analysis preceded this decision to utilize part of the restored stables as a shop. Cost analysis of restoration versus a new structure weighed heavily in favor of restoration. We estimated, and it proved to be true, that an outlay of less than $10,000 for materials would accomplish the task.

Aerial view of Ft. Hartsuff shows barracks restoration in progress. NB Game & Parks Commission

Uniformed staff members demonstrate arms used by the Army on the Plains during the 1870s. NB Army National Guard

Half of the building was restored to its 1874 configuration. This included the Saddler Room, the Forage Room, and eight stalls. The remaining half of the building was converted into a modern shop with a heated work area, conveniently located for maintenance equipment storage.

The biggest benefit of making the Quartermaster Stables an adaptive use restoration was the factor of historic site integrity. No new, modern structure had to be built on the fort grounds. The Stables offer high visual impact to the visitor, retaining an 1874 appearance on both the exterior and interior. The modern use adaptation is not apparent to the park visitor touring the nine grout structures comprising Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park.

Visitor Participation

At the fort, we encourage visitors not to simply tour the structures but to use them for cultural activities, so long as the activities insure structure preservation and participant safety.

One of the most popular buildings for activities is the restored Barracks. This building includes a kitchen, dining hall, and dormitory. These rooms have been used for many community and organizational events, including a Bicentennial Christmas program by a rural school during which the dining hall doubled as a theater — as it often did for the 1870s community of settlers and soldiers.

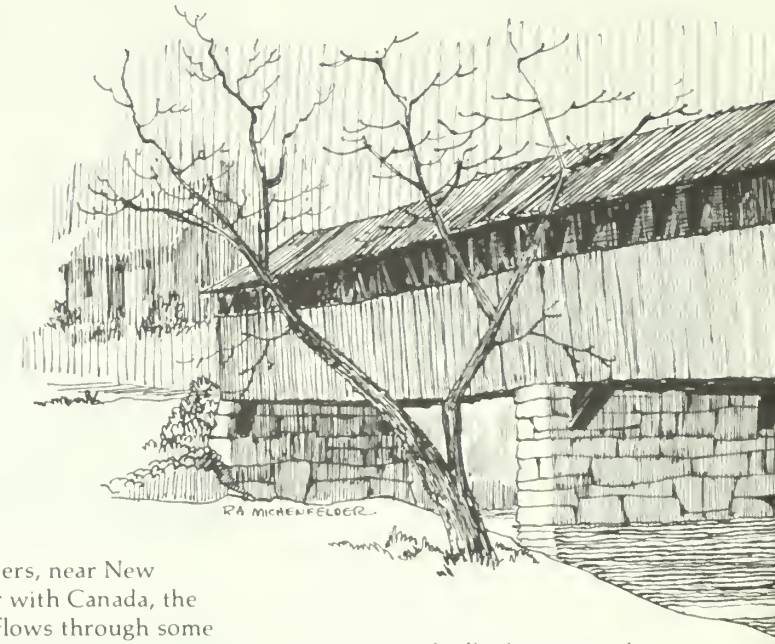
The Barracks is heated by wood stoves and lighted by kerosene lamps. Meals are served regularly to visitors from the army range which dominates the kitchen. Recipes are the same as those served earlier to soldiers on this Plains outpost.

Visitors who participate in activities within the fort gain an added sensory interpretation of history and enjoy a multi-faceted experience that they will long remember.

Roye Lindsay is Superintendent of Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park, NB.

Covered Bridge to Highlight Riverside Park (NH)

by Malcolm Thomas



From its headwaters, near New Hampshire's border with Canada, the Connecticut River flows through some of New England's most picturesque valley landscapes on its way to Long Island Sound. For most of its 400-mile (640 km) length, the river forms the boundary between New Hampshire and Vermont. At about the midpoint along this common boundary lie the villages of Haverhill, New Hampshire and South Newbury, Vermont.

Historic Background

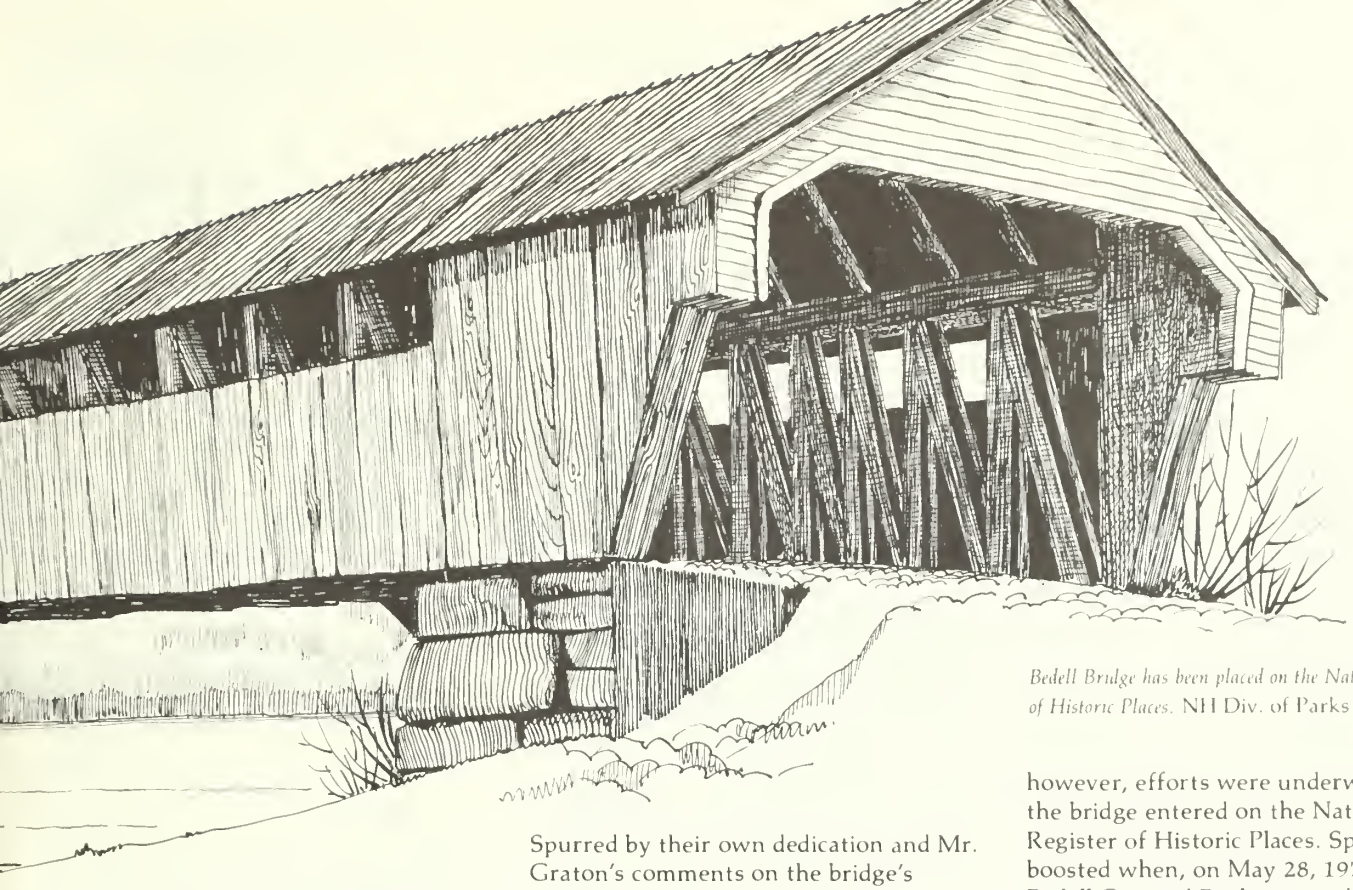
Here, in 1805, a corporation formed by General Moody Bedell and others erected a light bridge to replace a ferry service which the General had established between the two villages in 1791. Moody was the son of Revolutionary War hero, Colonel Timothy Bedell, and was later to distinguish himself in the War of 1812.

The 1805 bridge was badly damaged by flood waters and rebuilt in 1823. In 1841, another flood swept it away completely. Two other bridges suffered similar fates between then and the end of 1866. At that time, a new two-span structure of burr-arch truss design, supported by a high pier of granite blocks erected at midstream, was begun. This new covered bridge, still known as Bedell Bridge, served the two communities well while withstanding heavy floods in 1927 and 1936. Following the 1927 testing, two pairs of massive laminated arches were installed, strengthening the bridge and anchoring it more securely to its abutments and pier. Despite further strengthening measures, the 1866 structure gradually deteriorated until public safety considerations forced its closing by joint town action in 1958. In 1970, the towns of Haverhill, New Hampshire and Newbury, Vermont, quitclaimed their "right, title, and interest" in Bedell Bridge to the State of New Hampshire. (The two towns had acquired title to the bridge in 1916, after it had ceased to be a privately-owned toll bridge.)

Within a year's time, the state acquired some 71 acres (28 ha) of land adjacent to the bridge. Subsequently, about 50 of those acres (20 ha) were placed under agricultural lease. Officials envisioned a small "river wayside" park, with picnic sites and a camping area for boaters. Meanwhile, natural forces continued to work toward sending the bridge the way of its four predecessors. Further damage by two storms in 1973 led state officials to fear a complete collapse of the structure and the consequences of such an event. Actions were initiated to demolish the 300-ton (270 t) structure under controlled conditions, before the next flood sent it careening down the river.

Local Citizens Form Corporation to Save the Bridge

When talk of demolition reached the towns of Haverhill and Newbury, a number of concerned citizens objected so strongly that a public hearing was arranged. As a result, state officials



Bedell Bridge has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. NH Div. of Parks & Recreation

agreed not to proceed with demolition plans if sufficient citizen support and private funds could be gathered to restore the 396-foot (119 m) bridge to a useful and safe condition.

A nonprofit corporation, Bedell Covered Bridge, Inc., was formed quickly and, in late 1973, signed a contract with the State of New Hampshire which set forth conditions aimed at protecting the state against liability and allowing for indemnification and demolition should the Corporation fail to accomplish its goal. Through membership dues and outright contributions, private citizens provided the funds needed by the Corporation for a $60,000 indemnity bond and a $1,000,000 insurance policy.

Restoration Begun

With the legal matters attended to, the Corporation turned to the monumental challenge of saving and restoring the bridge itself. Where was a "bridge saver" equal to the task? The Corporation found its answer in one Milton S. Graton, an ingenious and resourceful man with over fifteen years' experience in the all-but-lost art of covered bridge construction. He viewed the structural problems of the aged bridge with the eye and mind of one who has developed a "sixth sense" understanding of such matters, unaided by formal training in bridge design or its related sciences.

Spurred by their own dedication and Mr. Graton's comments on the bridge's tenuous condition, the Corporation moved quickly to execute a restoration contract with Graton Associates for a sum not to exceed $200,000.

At no small risk to life and limb, Mr. Graton and his associates lost no time in addressing the first objective—to keep the bridge from collapsing and make it safe to work on. The project began in early December of 1973. By August of 1974, repairs had been made to the stone abutments; the threat of collapse had been removed by raising and supporting the bridge by an ingenious system of cribwork, steel cables, and anchoring; and the whole structure had been weather-protected by a temporary sheet metal roof.

As the work progressed, the officers and trustees of the Corporation matched the workmen's labor in their own efforts to raise the private funds necessary to keep the project alive. The Corporation's records concerning these efforts should themselves be of great historical interest and of considerable research value to other citizen groups contemplating similar action to preserve examples of their local heritage.

Bridge Added to National Register of Historic Places

By May 1975, work on the bridge had to be halted when the pace of incoming contributions fell below the project's expenditures. Behind the scene, however, efforts were underway to get the bridge entered on the National Register of Historic Places. Spirits were boosted when, on May 28, 1975, the Bedell Covered Bridge was added to the prestigious Register, thereby making the restoration project eligible for federal matching funds. On May 6, 1976, the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Review Board voted to allocate $55,000 of the State's 1976 Federal Historic Preservation apportionment to the Bedell Bridge project. Aided by the federal matching funds and a $25,000 "challenge grant" from the Kresge Foundation, the Corporation launched yet another publicity campaign for additional funding in behalf of the bridge restoration project. Work on the bridge was resumed as private contributions again bolstered the Corporation's balance sheet.

From the start, the Corporation had hoped to see the restoration completed in time for a dedication ceremony during the bicentennial year of 1976. Disappointed, but not disheartened, by the realization that delays beyond their control combined to dash that hope, the officers and trustees pressed on with the job they were determined to see finished. For their part, Mr. Graton and his associates never once left any doubt that their monumental efforts were easily as much a labor of love and sentimentality as they were a matter of businessmen's pride. And these human sentiments were shared with the more than one thousand private contributors whose interest and concern made it all possible.

Today, thanks to the efforts of many people from many walks of life, one of America's most notable examples of 19th-century bridge construction stands at least as secure and sound as in the year it was built. It will require but a tiny fraction of the restoration efforts to keep the structure in such shape that it will be there when the Nation's tricentennial rolls around.

Riverside Park

That obligation falls to the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation, which plans to feature the remarkable structure as the "centerpiece" of the riverside park it has begun to develop with a $30,000 state appropriation, half of which qualifies for federal reimbursement through the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In addition to providing an opportunity for public viewing and understanding of our covered bridge heritage, the new park will preserve for posterity an excellent example of river bottomland environment well-suited for agricultural uses. The annual flooding which posed such a threat to the early bridges at this location, is an important chapter in the geological story behind these valuable agricultural lands.

Bedell Bridge State Park has been selected by the Division of Parks and Recreation for its first venture into providing a place where canoeists and other boaters will be able to camp overnight. The initial development will be modest in scope and of "primitive" character, enabling the Division to gain experience with the needs and desires of those who utilize this feature.

A former director of the Division frequently advised that "parks are for people." In the case of Bedell Bridge State Park, that sage advice can truly be expanded to say that parks can also be *of* the people and *by* the people. Perhaps this will be remembered when 2076 rolls around, at the covered bridge which Moody Bedell built.

Malcolm Thomas is a Landscape Architect in the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation.

Enlivening an Unfinished Fort (FL)

by Roy Kemp

Upon crossing the drawbridge, Ft. Clinch visitors return to Civil War times. Lou Egner

Fort Clinch, located on the northern end of Florida's Amelia Island, is part of the United States' third or totten system of coastal fortifications. The fort, in an excellent state of preservation, has the distinction of being the sole unaltered example of the detached scarp principle of fortification that survives in our country. It was built between 1847 and 1867.

Today, we number Fort Clinch among the historical sites under the care of Florida's state park system. Historical interpretation of our fort is based on two factors. First, the fort is unfinished. By 1867, the fort had become militarily obsolete, so the government halted all further construction. Second, no battle or besiegement occurred at this site.

Due to these two factors, we interpret the fort from the viewpoint of the federal soldier stationed there during the Civil War—emphasizing the mundane, daily garrison life of those soldiers who were involved in the wartime construction of Fort Clinch.

Great efforts have been made to insure that our visitors actually feel they are returning to Civil War time upon entering our fort. The interpreters visitors see are all dressed in authentic period uniforms. All the parade ground buildings the public enters have period furniture and implements in them. Visitors' questions are answered as if it still were 1864.

The soldiers can tell of life in Fort Clinch, how the fort is being constructed, what the food is like. Visitors can observe soldiers at work in kitchens cooking the officers' dinner or repairing tools in the carpenter shop. They can stop by the quartermaster's office where the soldier is issued his rations, uniforms, and pay. From talking with the soldiers, the visitor can learn the current political situation, the state of the war, when the soldier expects to get back home, and how he misses his friends and family. We consider this living history approach the most effective method of interpreting Fort Clinch.

In keeping with the historical theme, two major construction types prevail throughout Fort Clinch State Park. Buildings of Georgian style are a combination of red brick with wood trim which is painted Rustoleum white - 520. The second theme is contemporary rustic, with walls painted a grey-stain Moorwood P73-C with a brown stain Pinto P61-C used for trim, or grey paint Harris 297-C and Rustoleum 792 brown.

A special exception is the fort itself. The only paints authorized in the fort are Precision TY-25, a dark grey used for woodwork trim, and a flat black for the cannons. Information and road signs generally follow the color theme of the contemporary rustic buildings, but the lettering is painted park grey.

Captain Roy Kemp is Superintendent II at Fort Clinch State Park in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Living History at Ft. Churchill (NV)

by H. F. LaDuke

A "Living History Talk" program has been developed at Fort Churchill Historic State Monument to stimulate, increase, and maintain individual interest and verbal participation by the visiting public in the military purpose and history of Nevada's early statehood. Presented during the summer season on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., it is also very popular with elementary school children visiting Fort Churchill on field trips.

At the scheduled place and time the interpreter/ranger appears in an 1865 military uniform of shoes, trousers, jacket, and hat. All other accouterments are hung on nearby pegs. The "soldier" starts right in with the interpretive history of Fort Churchill, speaking in the vernacular of a soldier stationed here in 1865. After completing the history talk and answering questions, the soldier explains the uniform, from shoes up through the hat and insignia. He continues with the accouterments as he puts them on himself, and then explains the weapons.

The last weapon is the rifle. While explaining the loading procedure, the weapon is actually loaded. Then the soldier, being sure everyone is behind him, turns, aims at a target and backstop in an approved open area, and fires. (It is recommended to hit the target.) This ends the "Living History Talk" usually with many good questions being asked.

This program is enjoyed far more by the visitors than the usual one of the ranger in ranger uniform giving the ordinary interpretive talk. The combination of history, uniform, accouterments, life style facts, and weapon demonstration, really stimulates and holds attention.

Cannon Drill

The living history program will be expanded during 1979. A "cannon drill" will be added, scheduled in between the presentations of the "Living History Talks." The presentations will use restored cannons, which were part of the original artillery used at Fort Churchill during the 1860s.

Weapons demonstrations by historically uniformed park interpreters stimulate visitors' attention. NV Div. of State Parks

The program will start with interpretive information concerning unique features of the cannons and the reason for their being here. This will be followed by explanations of parts and accouterments, aiming methods, and loading procedure. We will then request or appoint volunteers from the audience to "man" the gun, with our own soldier in uniform supervising the gun crew drill for loading, aiming, and simulated firing.

Environmental Living Program

Also in the planning stage and scheduled for implementation next fall is an "Environmental Living Program" for 5th and 6th grade students. This program is designed to stimulate in the students an interest in Nevada's history. In doing so, hopefully, they will learn more about themselves and gain an appreciation for man's relationship with his environment.

For a day and a night, the students will live the lives of soldiers and other persons who were at Fort Churchill in the 1860s.

A "teacher's handbook" has been prepared and all teachers wishing to have their students participate in this program will be required to attend a workshop where they will essentially go through the same program as the students. They will then spend about six weeks working with their individual classes to plan for their "living experience" at Fort Churchill.

Large equipment such as tents and group cooking gear will be supplied, as will basic historical references and information, but the classes are expected to plan their own program through further research into life at a western military outpost in the 1860s.

H.F. (Bud) LaDuke is Park Supervisor I at Fort Churchill Historic State Monument, NV.

Restored Stage Coach Inn (OR)

by Kathryn Straton

OVERLAND MAIL ROUTE
TO OREGON.

Through in Six Days to Portland!!

CONNECTING WITH THE DAILY STAGES

OREGON LINE OF STAGE COACHES!

TRAVELERS AVOID RISK of OCEAN TRAVEL

FARE THROUGH, FIFTY DOLLARS.

Ticket Office at Sacramento, near the Steamboat Landing.

H. W. CORBETT & Co.,

"Through in Six Days to Portland!!" announces an 1866 advertising poster for the Sacramento-to-Portland, Oregon Stage Line.

In those days it was a long, tiring, bone-jarring trip to travel Oregon by stage along what is now Interstate 5. Daily stages left Portland and Sacramento from 1866 until 1887. The demand for regular passenger, mail, and freight service required the stage company to maintain 28 coaches, 30 stage wagons, and 500 horses. Eventually, there were 60 stage stations, taverns, and inns along the 589 mile (942 km) route. They were a welcome sight to weary, dust-coated travelers.

A Welcome Sight in Bygone Days

In its heydays, especially at dusk, the kerosene lanterns of Wolf Creek Tavern, built in the early 1870s, beckoned all passersby inside. Delicious smells of homemade venison stew and bread, and home-grown fruits and vegetables lured hungry travelers to the dining room. The food was served family style and was simple, but filling and good. After supper, men retired to the "tap room" to enjoy a roaring fire, conversation, and a smoke. Women gathered in the parlor for tea and conversation. No "spirits" were served, for Wolf Creek Tavern was a teetotaling establishment. Little is known about the actual operation of the tavern, except that it has functioned continuously as an inn since it was built.

Wolf Creek Tavern, an 1870s stagecoach inn, has been purchased and restored by Oregon State Parks. OR State Parks

Legend has it that at some taverns of the era, candles in numbered holders stood on the mantle in the dining room, one candle for each sleeping room. Travelers arriving late knew which rooms were available by which candles were still on the mantle. They could take a candle, find the room, and pay in the morning. Room and board at Wolf Creek Tavern cost about $1.

That's the way it was more than a century ago. Now, a year-long state parks restoration program at Wolf Creek Tavern will recreate much of that bygone atmosphere.

Reconstruction Highlights Fine Craftsmanship

Like many other buildings constructed in the 19th century, the tavern boasts fine carpentry and workmanship. But, the years claimed a heavy toll and by the time the state acquired the building in 1975, it had deteriorated badly.

Restoration, however, renewed forgotten crafts and revealed delicate craftsmanship. Original moulding designs, no longer available, had to be custom made. Wainscoting, doors, and mouldings have a "combed" finish which simulates oak grain. Original paint colors have been reproduced on walls, woodwork, and chimneys. Yellowed pine floors glow softly under a new finish.

Some necessary modern amenities have been added: kitchen appliances, bathrooms, a heating and air conditioning system, electric lights. But, to every extent possible, the tavern is being refurnished with appropriate antiques or authentic reproductions.

Economic Prospectus

The restoration is funded through the Economic Development Administration. The tavern will provide restaurant, conference and banquet facilities, and sleeping accommodations for about 18 guests.

Wolf Creek Tavern will be self-sustaining and should produce long-term economic benefit to the local community. Historic Programs Coordinator David Powers says about 10 people initially will be hired to help operate the facility; this number probably will increase over the next five years. More tourist traffic through Wolf Creek should create greater demand for services and supplies.

The new concessionnaires for the tavern, Donna and Vernon Wiard, will complement the tavern's historical integrity in their hotel and restaurant operation. Waitresses and busboys will dress in 19th-century costumes. Eating and glass ware and table decorations, likewise, will be historically appropriate. But, most of all, the Wiards are interested in creating that old-time hospitality for all who stop.

Wolf Creek Tavern was dedicated on February 15, 1979 by Oregon's Governor, Vic Atiyeh. It is now open to the public. Eight guest chambers are available for $19 to $29 per night, and the Wiards offer moderately priced luncheon and dinner menus as well as a Sunday champagne brunch.

Kathryn Straton is a Special Assistant for Public and Legislative Affairs in the Parks and Recreation Branch of Oregon's Department of Transportation.

Roving Interpreter (MD)

by Ross M. Kimmel

Point Lookout State Park in Southern Maryland draws thousands of visitors yearly. They come to fish, camp, boat, swim, and participate in other forms of outdoor recreation. What most of those visitors do not realize is that Point Lookout had an intimate association with our greatest national tragedy, the Civil War. Union authorities established what was to be the largest prison camp of the war on the Point and incarcerated over 50,000 Confederate soldiers and southern sympathizers there. Some 3,500 prisoners died. Following the war, federal authorities, in an uncharacteristic flurry of efficiency, dismantled the prison facilities and sold the scrap for salvage. Today few tangible remains of the prison survive.

Because it is difficult to attract visitors to interpretive resources that are not readily apparent, like the dismantled prison, the Maryland Park Service decided to take the resources to the visitor. In the summers of 1977 and 1978, a seasonal historian dressed in the uniform of either a Union guard or a Rebel prisoner and, with such props as weapons, accouterments, a tent, and cooking gear, roved throughout the park putting on impromptu demonstrations of soldier life wherever he found interested park visitors. On several occasions he served coffee, made in his boiler, to midnight fishermen, thus combining interpretation with a simple act of hospitality.

The roving interpreter concept has been enthusiastically received by the public. It will be continued and expanded. Many times the interpreter leaves the park to take his message into the community, not only provoking awareness of Point Lookout's history among park neighbors, but also building strong ties between the community and the park.

Ross M. Kimmel is a Park Historian in the Maryland Park Service.

Hop On the Spring Mill Shuttle (IN)

by Lois Mattino-Gray

Shuttle bus whisks visitors around the park, stopping at eleven popular sites. IN Div. of State Parks

With the aid of a grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Group, an experimental shuttle bus service operates in Spring Mill State Park near Mitchell, Indiana. This mass transport system is a prototype for possible expansion of the concept into other park and recreation areas in the state.

The Spring Mill Shuttle is a free service offered daily during the park's busy season and utilized for special purposes throughout the year. Four nineteen-passenger mini buses follow the circular route which consists of eleven marked stops in high-use areas. The buses run at twenty minute intervals and riders may get on or off the buses at any of the eleven bus stop shelters.

Sample stop locations include: the campground, the pool, the inn, the restored pioneer village, the pioneer cemetery, Grissom Memorial, the lake, the nature preserve, and various caves. Brochures are available on all of the vehicles and bus drivers are well-versed in the park's natural and human history, available facilities, and hours of operation. Visitors are encouraged to ask the drivers questions, since they are knowledgeable interpreters.

The shuttle bus has been extremely successful in terms of user numbers. From its "maiden voyage" on July 17, 1978, to October 29th, the service carried over 45,000 visitors. Keep in mind that the shuttle service is not mandatory as in some park systems throughout the country.

One might ask why have a shuttle service in a state park? How can it justify its cost-effectiveness over the years? Our philosophy is that it will aid overall in creating a welcome feeling of tranquility and serenity as more and more park visitors use this bus system instead of their private vehicles. With the rapidly growing numbers of cars in this country, parks increasingly will have to contend with the problems of traffic jams, parking lots, and motor noise; the very conditions from which visitors seek refuge. Besides conserving energy and eliminating traffic problems, the overall effect of reduced motor traffic will serve to lessen the stress of heavy visitation and motor fumes on park's plant and animal life.

Perhaps the impact on visitors who use this service was best summed up by one camper this summer: "Those buses are great! They made my whole vacation! I just parked the car, pitched the tent, and never had to worry for a whole week whether I should have turned right when my wife said to turn left."

Lois Mattino-Gray is a Naturalist at Spring Mill State Park, IN.

Meet Mr. Energy (IN)

by John Thiele

"Howdy, I'm Mr. Energy." I seem to be saying that a lot nowadays. Why? Well, mostly because I *am* Mr. Energy, or more officially, the Energy Interpreter for the State of Indiana. Now, to the what's, how's, and why's.

State Energy Awareness Program Funded

The State Park System of Indiana, in order to keep its programs updated, relevant, and continually growing, decided to start an energy awareness and conservation program. This program, once implemented, explored several directions. An official Energy Interpreter was only one of the many proposed projects; among others were a shuttle bus system to alleviate traffic problems in one of our heavily visited parks, a windmill as an alternative energy demonstration in our windy park on Lake Michigan, and energy-saving tips collected from each property manager and distributed throughout the system to help others save energy in their parks.

The position of Energy Interpreter was accepted and funded by the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976. Working from a proposed budget of $38,000, the Interpreter was to receive a crash course on energy problems and methods of conservation, be outfitted with an "Energymobile"—a van to move him and his equipment throughout all parts of the state, and establish an office at one of the parks in order to design and prepare exhibits to aid him in his role of energy conservation educator. After a coal strike and severe midwest winter, the public interest in energy conservation and techniques for lower energy costs was at a peak. Thus the Energy Interpreter program was started.

I spent most of July studying the energy situation, a topic which has appeared in almost every periodical and daily newspaper. Although my B.S. in Geology had provided me with a good foundation in the basic elements and definitions of energy, the information I collected during the summer helped me become better acquainted with current problems and their possible solutions. My next step was to develop a presentation that would motivate audiences to action.

Mr. Energy takes his message to Indiana's public. IN Div. of State Parks

First Efforts Directed at Students

With the help of the Indiana Energy Office, a Division of the State's Department of Commerce, I found my most available and interested audience to be young people—who use a good part of the energy and play a surprisingly influential part in introducing their parents to changes in life styles (e.g., the adverse effects of smoking). Since I enjoy working with kids (I have been a Naturalist at three Indiana State Parks), I chose them as my target; an added attraction was the fact that the school setting provides a convenient captive audience.

Publicity, or letting "them out there" know that I was available, was a necessity. Energy is an attention-getting device at many shopping center shows, so I have appeared there. I also have recorded public service announcements for radio and television, and attended several energy education seminars for teachers which were offered by the Department of Public Instruction throughout the state. The seminars definitely were the most beneficial because I met the teachers in person and was able to schedule classroom appearances throughout the state.

My presentations, which are available to the general public, range from slide show speeches to introduction of the "Energy Machine"—a three-dimensional graphic model made for the demonstration of energy and its changing forms. One step in the demonstration of the Energy Machine requires audience participation, a plus for any audience, especially schoolchildren. One person is chosen from the audience to be a source of energy and is attached to a bicycle. His energy is captured and changed to another form, electricity, by use of an automobile generator and regulator. When a record player is turned on and lights flash on and off, it's hard to miss the fact that electricity isn't always made from coal or magically collected from lightning.

When I appear at school I have a lot of things in my favor. First, I'm not the teacher—that makes me a curiosity. Second, I'm wearing a uniform, and that gets at least five minutes of attention to see if I'm going to arrest them. Finally, I'm talking about a topic they've heard about and can relate to any aspect of life in which they are involved. At the time of this writing, 60 percent of the schools I have spoken to have requested my return later this year and the six months left on the position's contract are nearly scheduled full with appearances.

So it looks like I had better keep practicing my opening line: "Howdy, I'm Mr. Energy."

John Thiele (Mr. Energy) is an Energy Conservationist in the Division of State Parks within Indiana's Department of Natural Resources.

Windmill Electrical Generation (IN)

by Susan Rafalco

Several ideas have been brought forth in the Indiana State Parks to conserve energy. One project is the construction of a wind generator at Indiana Dunes State Park. We share the following information concerning this project in the hopes that other parks, too, may find wind generators to be feasible alternate sources of energy and undertake their construction.

Indiana Dunes State Park is located near Gary on Lake Michigan. By utilizing the winds off of Lake Michigan, the wind generator will be used to provide a percentage of energy to the Pavilion Beachhouse, located on the beach, for running appliances and lights.

When implementing such a project, it is necessary to install the proper size wind generator for operating the number of appliances and lights in a specific facility. This is determined by identifying the number and wattage of the appliances which will be used, as well as the operating hours of each.

The wind velocity in the area is another important factor since it contributes to the power generated. The annual average wind speed at Indiana Dunes was found by contacting the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Their reports showed the wind speed to be between 11 and 12 miles (18-19 km) per hour.

Identifying the Proper Size Generator

You can determine what size generator is appropriate for your needs in this way. Let us say you want to run a 60-watt light bulb every day for 8 hours. Eight hours × 60 watts an hour equals 480 watts of energy required a day. Per month, the energy required to run one light bulb is 480 watts per day × 30 days — 14,000 watts of energy or 14 kilowatts. Along with this, let us say that the winds turning the windmill are blowing at 14 miles (22 km) per hour. At this point, the size generator needed is determined by checking a chart, looking up the proper wind speed and the number of kilowatt hours needed per month. In the case cited, a 100-watt output generator would be required.

Wind generators are feasible alternate sources of energy for many sites. ENERTECH Generator Company, Norwich, VT

Basically speaking, the wind generator converts the wind into electricity which is then held for later use in storage batteries. When windless days occur, the batteries are drawn upon until the number of watts used exceeds the number of watts generated.

Arrangement with Power Company

When the number of watts used does exceed the number of watts generated, an arrangement is made to switch the power back to the electrical lines so the appliances remain running. This involves careful arrangements between Indiana Dunes State Park and its power company. It involves having two boxes, one showing kilowatts used through the power company and one showing kilowatts used through the wind generator. At the end of the month the power company, in turn, pays back to Indiana Dunes the kilowatt hours representing the energy the park supplied through the wind generator, which is recorded on one of the boxes.

Purchase of the Generator

The wind generator itself is purchased from a company selling a wind-powered generating system. These companies tailor-design the construction of a generator to fit a facility's needs. Arrangements can be made for company representatives to look over a site and assure its feasibility for utilizing a wind generator.

Two such companies are Enertech Generator Company in Vermont and Solar Wind Company in Maine. By writing the Wind Energy Society of America, 1700 East Walnut, Pasadena, California 91106, a listing of manufacturers of wind energy generators can be obtained or interested individuals can be put in contact with researchers studying the application of windmills.

Funding Support

Presently, Indiana is looking for grants to help fund this project. The main source where we have looked is the U.S. Department of Energy. Of the grants we have looked into, great detail is required to apply for them properly. Some common elements required in most grant applications are the names of companies contacted, a bibliography of reading materials, verification of wind speed, copies of correspondence with the power company, and abstracts of plans and budgets. Any "in-kind" contributions are looked upon favorably. Deadlines come quickly after the grant application becomes available, so any advance notice about the grant and initiation of work toward completing it will pay off.

Susan Rafalco is Recreation Chief in the Division of State Parks within Indiana's Department of Natural Resources.

New Twist to Nonprofit Concessions (WI)

by Loren Thorson

Concession operations in Wisconsin's state parks have an unusual "twist." Wisconsin state parks do not operate their own concession stands. Yet, in some cases, concession stands return 100 percent of their profits to the state park where the profits are generated.

To understand how this works, one must be aware of the general public attitude toward Wisconsin state parks. While state parks are for all citizens, local communities and villages near a state park are very much interested in the facilities, programs, and development taking place in "their state park down the road." Development and improvements desired by these local citizens are not always possible in this day and age of budgets that often must absorb inflationary costs.

Through the cooperation of local citizens and local communities, a unique method has been worked out whereby local communities can insure that many desired improvements or new facilities in adjacent state parks can become a reality. Through an agreement with a community or several communities, a nonprofit concession corporation is formed. This concession corporation is awarded the concession rights in a state park with the key point or the "twist" in the agreement being that all profits generated by this concession are state assets and will be used for improvements, new facilities, or support of programs *within that particular state park.*

How the "profits" will be spent is determined by joint meetings of state park officials and local representatives of the concessions corporation. Once a determination is made on an expenditure, the project or acquisition goes forth—with the concession corporation "picking up the tab."

Nonprofit concession at Devil's Lake. WI State Parks

Many Advantages

This type of operation has a number of advantages and enhances the public's attitude toward state parks. First of all, such an arrangement gives the concession operation a "local flavor," since local management and personnel are involved. Secondly, the profits are used to enhance a local state park facility. Thirdly, the local concession corporation is "given a piece of the action" in that it has a direct voice in how the profits will be spent.

This concept originated with a nonprofit concession corporation known as the Baraboo-Devil's Lake Concession Corporation. As the name depicts, this concession operates in Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin's largest park with annual attendance of 1½ million, one of the most heavily visited state parks in the country. Over the years of its operation, this concession has returned over $500,000 worth of capital improvements with generated profits.

Recently, a similar but novel approach was implemented in connection with the operation of the Sugar River State Trail—a 26-mile (41.6 km) state trail that has been converted from an abandoned railroad right-of-way. This state trail is now used for biking and hiking in the summertime and snowmobiling in the winter. The four communities through which this trail passes have formed a nonprofit trail corporation with each community having two members on the eight-member Board of Directors.

Banks in the local communities made a loan for "seed money" to enable the Board of Directors to purchase rental bicycles and other related items to service the many users of the Sugar River Trail. Profits of the corporation are being used first to pay off the loan. After that, all profits will be turned back into improvements along the Sugar River State Trail in a manner that is agreed upon by the Board of Directors of the corporation and the representatives of the state park system.

Wisconsin state park officials indicate such an arrangement may not be possible or practical in all cases because of certain unique concession operations or services. However, it is an approach that is worthy of exploration.

Loren Thorson is Chief of the Recreation Program Section of the Wisconsin State Parks.

Cooperative Management of Arboretum (AZ)

by Robert McKittrick

Some facilities are neither fish nor fowl when it comes to their classification as a recreational park or an educational institution. All museums offer both recreational and educational experiences to their patrons. Botanic gardens and arboreta, as museums of living plants, are particularly "park-like" in their recreational appeal. To the classical botanist, however, plant collections are tools for teaching and research.

It is not surprising, then, to find a great diversity in the sponsorship of such facilities. Many gardens are operated entirely as private, nonprofit corporations, even though their greatest service is to the public—for example, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Among gardens supported by public funds, many are operated by state universities such as those of the Universities of Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin. Others are funded by Parks and Recreation Departments as is Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco. The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is, in fact, a number of gardens operated as a distinct county department.

In Arizona, our Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum is cooperatively managed and funded through a tripartite arrangement representing all of these traditional sponsorships: The Arizona State Parks Board, The University of Arizona, and the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum Board (a nonprofit organization incorporated within the State of Arizona).

Miner Begins Arid Plant Collection

This cooperative sponsorship evolved over many years. Col. William Boyce Thompson, a noted copper mining magnate of international stature, founded the gardens with a ground breaking in 1924, a chartering of the nonprofit corporation in 1927, and a dedication of the gardens in 1929. He located the gardens in a striking setting at the foot of the desert monolith, Picket Post Mountain. In the twenties and thirties this was a rather remote site, sixty miles (96 km) of gravel road away from Phoenix and 100 miles (160 km) of the same from Tucson. These then relatively small communities were the nearest population centers.

The gardens were dedicated to research, investigation, and experimentation with plants to determine their needs, particularly as to climates and soils; to the broadening of public interest in and knowledge of plants; and to increasing plants' general usefulness for human sustenance and enjoyment. With these goals in mind, Thompson, applying all the vision and enterprise characteristic of his mining ventures, achieved a remarkable design and subsequent planting of a collection of arid land plants from all over the world.

Col. Thompson died in 1930 before fulfilling his intention to adequately endow the corporation to a level insuring its financial future. Nevertheless, the momentum that he had given its early development carried over into World War II. From 1945 on, however, the corporation was hard pressed to provide adequate funding. In 1965, it entered into an agreement with the University of Arizona, providing that institution with the principal management authority at the arboretum.

Over the next few years, the University found the arboretum plant collection to be of great academic value. However, most of the University's energies and monies were being committed to the arboretum's public recreational and educational programs rather than to academics. In searching for a means to relieve its investment of these obligations, the University discovered that the enabling legislation creating the Arizona State Parks System specifically authorized that appropriate agency to acquire and operate botanic gardens and arboreta.

State Parks Brought In As Third Sponsor

Arizona State Parks had, in years past, expressed an interest in the arboretum. Three-way negotiations to bring State Parks in as a third sponsor were begun in 1973. In March of 1976, a management agreement was signed by the three institutions. Arizona State Parks would become the principal manager upon receipt of adequate appropriations from the Arizona State Government.

The phasing in of adequate appropriations began with the fiscal year budget of 1977-78. It is anticipated that by 1982-83 Arizona State Parks will assume its role as the principal manager. At that time it will have assumed the operating costs of the arboretum and will be the employer of its operating staff.

State Parks will be responsible for the interpretive program, elementary and high school educational programs, and the visitor management activities in addition to the care and maintenance of the facility and the plant collections. There will be a research division staffed by professionals employed by the University and by the Arboretum Corporation if it chooses. The research division will be responsible for academic instruction at the college level as well as the research program. The Arboretum Corporation will retain ownership of the property and will have the option of investing its funds in capital improvement or research.

Interim Management, Staffing, and Financing

During the interim period, a rather unique but quite successful management arrangement is in effect. The signed agreement has been accepted voluntarily as the guideline for cooperative management. The Managing Director, presently employed by the University, acts as the Park Supervisor in the direction of State Parks activities and personnel matters at the gardens. He also represents the Arboretum Corporation in regard to its local interests. State Parks and the Arboretum Corporation each will provide about 30 percent of the current year's budget, the University about 15 percent, with income generated at the arboretum through admissions and other activities making up the balance.

Arboretum collection includes arid land plants from all over the world. AZ State Parks

Arizona State Parks has contributed one half-time and two full-time employees to the staff. Their planners and other technical personnel of the headquarters staff have been assigned as needed to arboretum programs. The Arboretum Corporation provided the bulk of the funding to completely renovate the Visitor Center at a cost of $110,000. University architects and the Managing Director planned the renovation and provided the construction supervision. The University also led the way in initiating several active projects in research on desert plants and the retrievable accumulation of useful data about them.

An Advisory Committee of six, comprised of two representatives from each sponsor, is authorized by the agreement to set policy, coordinate the interests of the participants, and to resolve any conflicts of interests among the parties. It is recognized that each sponsor brings to the arboretum tripartite management unique contributions and expertise. This and the team attitude exhibited within the Advisory Committee are the keys to the success of this cooperative venture.

Today, the gravel road past the arboretum has become a busy U.S. Highway 60, bringing nearly one and one-half million people of Phoenix, Tucson, and other growing Arizona communities within a two-hour drive. 5,000 visitors were counted in 1977-78 in addition to conducted tours for over 5000 elementary and high school students and visits by organized classes from more than a dozen colleges and universities across the U.S.A.

Robert McKittrick is Park Supervisor of Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum in Arizona.

New Overtures (WA)

From Charles Odegaard, Director of Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, comes a short announcement of two exciting new cooperative ventures. Both programs are in their beginning stages, their outcomes still uncertain. However, they show such promise that other park directors may be interested in knowing about their existence and keeping an eye on their progress.

Joseph Whidbey State Park—A State Parks-Private Business Partnership

The first cooperative venture involves the 112 acre (45 ha) Joseph Whidbey State Park, given to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission free of charge by the federal government.

Here, the Commission decided to try an experiment—having private capital completely build and operate a park under the park agency's rules and regulations. After some negotiation, a contract was entered into with a private entrepreneur to develop a park and also to be responsible for securing all necessary permits and documents.

If this program succeeds, it may well be the forerunner of many other such programs which will provide service to the public while saving the taxpayers' money. At the present time, however, the entrepreneur is having difficulty obtaining local zoning permits, so it is hard to foresee just how this venture will turn out.

Saint Edward State Park—A Study in State-County Cooperation

Saint Edward is a 316 acre (126 ha) park in metropolitan Seattle with 3,000 feet (900 m) of waterfront on Lake Washington. State Parks acquired this property from the diocese of Seattle for $7 million of state and federal funds. Since its acquisition in mid-1977, the land has been administered through use of monies from the governor's emergency fund and some savings in other areas by State Parks. Saint Edward has been used very heavily for a metropolitan athletic field.

The park also has a gymnasium and swimming pool for which State Parks has requested funds to redesign per specifications of the King County Parks Department. State Parks also has requested operating funds for their utilities and, if successful, hopes to contract with King County for its operation of these two facilities within the park.

An 83,000 square foot (7,470 m^2) seminary building, also at Saint Edward, is being used to provide room and board for nearly 100 Young Adult Conservation Corps enrollees doing work in city and county parks throughout King County.

State Parks feels this program will illustrate the great benefits of cooperation among various levels of government and agencies.

Facility & Program Accessibility (IL)

by Silas P. Singh, Ph.D.

Dr. Singh relaxes on a safe, accessible fishing dock which he was instrumental in having installed.

Illinois, like many other states, has realized that many of the visitors to its state parks are in some way handicapped or disabled. In the past, there were few, if any, facilities or programs accessible to or usable by these individuals. The Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC) now is moving toward an extensive renovation of its facilities and mainstreaming of all visitors into its programs.

Spearheading this effort was my own appointment as Chief of Program Development for the Department of Conservation. I am a post-polio paraplegic confined to a wheelchair, experienced in recreation for the handicapped, as well as an avid sportsman.

Support for this new program did not come easily from within the department. The major changes needed to accommodate handicapped individuals are not easily done and I needed the support of many professionals such as engineers, site planners, park maintenance personnel, as well as my superiors. For example, prior to my appointment to the Department of Conservation, some changes had to be made in the office building where I would work. First, the curbcut from the entrance had to be taken out and a new sloped entrance ramp installed. Second, the restrooms needed grab bars installed and the stall door replaced. All of this confusion made the office staff become rather apprehensive about the new program. After all, who was this person who had the authority to insist upon the remodeling of our office?

Accessibility Plan

Initially, a series of informational workshops for central office and administrative field employees was held to make them aware of the intense need to provide such facilities, for the handicapped and able-bodied alike.

Upon completion of the informational workshops, we had convinced many employees of the need to provide accessible and usable facilities at as many state-owned properties as possible.

The Department of Conservation presently is involved in the process of making one site in each of its five administrative regions a Pilot Project Site for accessibility and usability by and for handicapped and elderly individuals. These sites will offer at least one type of recreational opportunity to the nation's next minority. Incidently, in Illinois, this special group is certainly *not* a minority—there are presently over 2 million handicapped individuals residing in the state.

For the most comprehensive administration of this plan, I travel throughout the state visiting DOC areas, inspecting facilities, and recommending changes. The costs for these changes usually come out of the individuals site's budget. If funds are not available there, another service or program is cut, as this program is one of Director David Kenney's highest priorities.

The success of this program can be attributed to the strong support of both the Director of the Department of Conservation and of Illinois Governor James Thompson. We have developed and presently are implementing a statewide plan to improve and increase recreational opportunities for the handicapped and elderly. This plan is part of Illinois' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which is required by law. The National Center for Law and the Handicapped in South Bend, Indiana has designated Illinois' SCORP as a model plan for the nation.

The bottom line is that the Illinois Department of Conservation has made its employees very much aware of the needs of handicapped and elderly individuals and that everyone is working together to make facilities accessible to, usable by, and enjoyable for all citizens through mainstreaming.

Design Standards Manual

Another facet of this mainstreaming effort by the Department of Conservation has been the development of an extremely comprehensive, 48-page document entitled, "Mainstreaming Handicapped Individuals: Parks and Recreation Design Standards Manual."

An outgrowth of the state's 1978 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which contains an aggressive, five-year implementation guideline for site accessibility and usability, the design manual presents minimum requirements for accessibility for recreationally disadvantaged people. In addition to discussing standard accessibility features such as parking, ramps, handrails, walkways, curbcuts, restrooms, telephones, control devices, etc., the manual presents specifications for such recreational facilities as historic sites, parks, trails, picnic areas, camp sites, boating, fishing, play and game areas, swimming areas, amphitheaters, and cabins.

The Design Standards Manual complements the Illinois Capital Development Board's accessibility standards for the handicapped. The manual will guide the Department of Conservation's staff in designing and developing accessible and usable outdoor recreation facilities. Much of the effort in designing facilities for the handicapped requires attention to details which usually do not occur to the "able-bodied."

This manual is developed to further the policy of the Illinois Department of Conservation: "To encourage and promote the recreations of handicapped individuals in harmony with the recreational and stewardship roles of the Department." Implementation of the standards, consequently, is entrusted to a multi-disciplinary staff consisting of people from engineering, site planning, and park maintenance, which must not only adapt them carefully to the resource and operational determinants of

Play facilities for handicapped children have been added to many Illinois state parks.

Height of drinking fountains is an important consideration for children and wheelchair-bound park visitors.

locations and facilities, but also systematically select those areas, facilities, and programs to be brought into the mainstream.

The primary intent of the design standards is to eliminate, insofar as possible, unnecessary barriers encountered by aged, handicapped, or disabled persons, whose ability to engage in meaningful recreation or to achieve maximum personal independence is restricted needlessly when they cannot readily use park facilities.

To further enhance the concepts espoused in the manual, a park directory for handicapped individuals was published indicating facilities which are accessible to and usable by handicapped and aged individuals.

Mainstreaming Interpretive Programs

Accompanying the DOC's active commitment to making the state parks more accessible physically is an effort to plan, publicize, and conduct interpretive activities for all park visitors. The focus of our interpretive programming is the visiting family. Interspersed in the family-oriented activities schedule are programs along topic or skill lines and/or for specific age categories.

Formal interpretive programs started in 1970. Informal interpretive activities started in 1978. The first interpretive programming that included mainstreaming practices was a self-guiding loop trail near the interpretive center in Giant City State Park, near Carbondale, Illinois. Recently two park interpreters completed courses in sign language. These interpreters and several others donate their own time in working with the institutionalized mentally and physically handicapped.

The Youth Conservation Corps program has constructed seven trails that are accessible for the handicapped. Various branches of the Lions Club of Illinois have provided financial assistance in designing and developing trails that are accessible for the blind and other types of handicapped visitors. Summer interpretive specialists have worked with the area's older adult groups in having the local "meals on wheels" program serve hot lunches in the local state park. The hot lunch is the incentive that attracts the older adults to participate in a day of activities in the park.

Handicapped Interpretive Training Program

In order to expand our mainstreaming efforts, the Illinois Department of Conservation has planned a Handicapped Interpretive Training Program (HIP). The HIP's goal is to train interpretive staffers in planning, conducting, and publicizing programs that will integrate handicapped visitors into park interpretive activities. Specific objectives of the program are:

a. To train permanent interpreters.
b. To train summer interpreters.
c. To write a guide on "How to Prepare Interpreters to Work with Handicapped Visitors in Illinois Parks."
d. To produce at least six half-hour videotape programs dealing with various aspects of preparing, planning, conducting, and publicizing interpretive programs for handicapped park visitors.
e. Pre and post evaluations of the interpreters participating in the training program and of the handicapped visitors attending the interpretive programs in the parks.
f. Conduct a national dissemination workshop in order to rapidly make available the guide and videotapes.

The training program for full-time park interpreters will consist of two five-day workshops at locations consonant with staff needs. The first workshop will be a residential experience and will be similar for all staff members. The second five-day program will be structured to meet individual needs—making up specific deficiencies or deepening experiences begun at the first workshop. As part of the second workshop, interpreters will meet with leaders of key handicapped groups based near their parks.

The training program for summer staff will consist of a five-day residential experience. The training programs, guide preparation and printing, and videotape production will be done by a training team with recognized experience in working with the handicapped and also in working with interpretation.

On-Site Evaluations

After completion of the training workshops, two training team members will make an on-site visit to each park having an interpretive program. The visitation will be at a sufficient interval to have allowed for implementation of some of the goals established at the training program. During the on-site visit, the team will evaluate and make written recommendations for program improvement and, if convenient, meet with some of the leaders of the local handicapped groups.

Through this HIP, Illinois park interpreters will be able to provide more park visitors with the opportunity to learn about and from the Illinois heritage that is located in its state park system.

Silas P. Singh, Ph. D., is Chief of Program Development in the Illinois Department of Conservation.

A free copy of the Illinois Design Standards Manual can be obtained by writing to Dr. Silas P. Singh at 405 East Washington Street, Springfield, IL 62706.

Photos from Olin Harris, Illinois Department of Conservation.

Dramatization Focuses On Needs of Handicapped Citizens (PA)

by William C. Forrey

Re-Creation, a university musical group, lends its talents to a new state parks program. Pennsylvania State University

In the summer of 1979, the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks will premier an innovative and exciting program designed to heighten public awareness of the needs of the handicapped.

The Bureau will draw upon the musical talents of Re-Creation—a group of students from The Pennsylvania State University—to dramatically present an original story from the pen of *Field and Stream* Associate Editor Patrick F. McManus. The presentation will feature puppets by Anne Brault and will be accompanied by Re-Creation music.

Mr. McManus, known nationwide for his fresh, homespun, side-splitting humor, has written a copyrighted scenario for Re-Creation and the Bureau. Miss Brault, a recent and commanding presence in Pennsylvania puppetry, has fashioned animal characters to portray the McManus story. Re-Creation will weave the seven minute presentation into a full hour of entertainment for visitors to forty Pennsylvania State Parks.

Re-Creation programming, directed by Hugh Brooks, Instructor in Recreation and Parks at Penn State, is in its third year in the Pennsylvania State Parks.

This year's emphasis on the needs of the handicapped has been developed in consultation with the Pennsylvania Governor's Commission on the Handicapped and with various organizations representing handicapped individuals. It is based on the assumption that the American people, made mindful of barriers limiting individual development, will remove those barriers.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks is pleased to take this part in the search for solutions to problems encountered by many of the state's citizens. Careful evaluation and follow-up will provide data for similar program innovation and enlargement.

William C. Forrey is Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks. Additional information about the above program and a copy of Re-Creation's Pennsylvania State Parks schedule may be obtained by writing to Mr. Forrey at the Bureau of State Parks, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or by phoning (717) 787-6640.

Work Programs for Special Kids (NV)

by Wayne R. Perock

Physically and mentally handicapped youths gain work experience in Nevada state parks. NV Div. of State Parks

Both physically handicapped and mentally disadvantaged youths have a place in the Nevada Division of State Parks' work programs.

Late in 1976, an idea to provide work program experience to physically handicapped teens was conceived. Governor Mike O'Callaghan liked the idea so well, he suggested a similar program also be developed for the mentally disadvantaged. Throughout the winter and spring, the program was planned and by June of 1977, we were ready to start. That summer, ten physically handicapped enrollees from Las Vegas and ten mentally disadvantaged enrollees from Reno were selected.

Our staff was much more apprehensive about the situation than were the enrollees, but through trial and error, experience and confidence grew. The first year's program was more successful and rewarding than anticipated. In 1978, we repeated the program with still greater success, building upon our experience.

The success of our program is measured not only in the amount of work accomplished, but also by the personal growth and development of each enrollee. This reinforces our idea that mainstreaming these children into the program is the best way to operate.

Work programs for the special people are operated basically the same as the regular program with a few exceptions:

- First, it's extremely important to develop close working relations with agencies which deal with the handicapped and mentally disadvantaged. These people are helpful in recruiting enrollees and staff as well as in giving advice and guidance.
- Second, the selection of qualified staff is important. The success of the program rests heavily on crewleaders. So these employees should have backgrounds in dealing with physically handicapped or mentally disadvantaged people.
- Third, a park staff interested and dedicated to the program generally spells success.
- Fourth, work projects must be selected which can be performed and completed by the enrollees. These children perform surprisingly well, so meaningful work projects and environmental awareness programs must offer challenge, interest, and opportunity to learn.

During the summer of 1979, the Division will again operate these two crews. The knowledge and experience gained during the past two summers will guarantee a rewarding and educational experience for another twenty very special Nevadans.

Wayne R. Perock is a District Ranger I in the Nevada Division of State Parks.

Governor Scales Cliffs to Open Rock Climbers' Park (CO)

by Dale Lashnits

According to Webster, innovative means "introducing something new." Now, official ceremonies opening a new state park are not likely to be called innovative. But, when those ceremonies consist of roping up the state's governor and sending him scrambling up a 75-foot (22.86 m) sandstone outcropping, that is truly "new." And that's just what the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation did to Governor Richard D. Lamm to officially open Eldorado Canyon State Park, one of the finest technical rock climbing areas in the country.

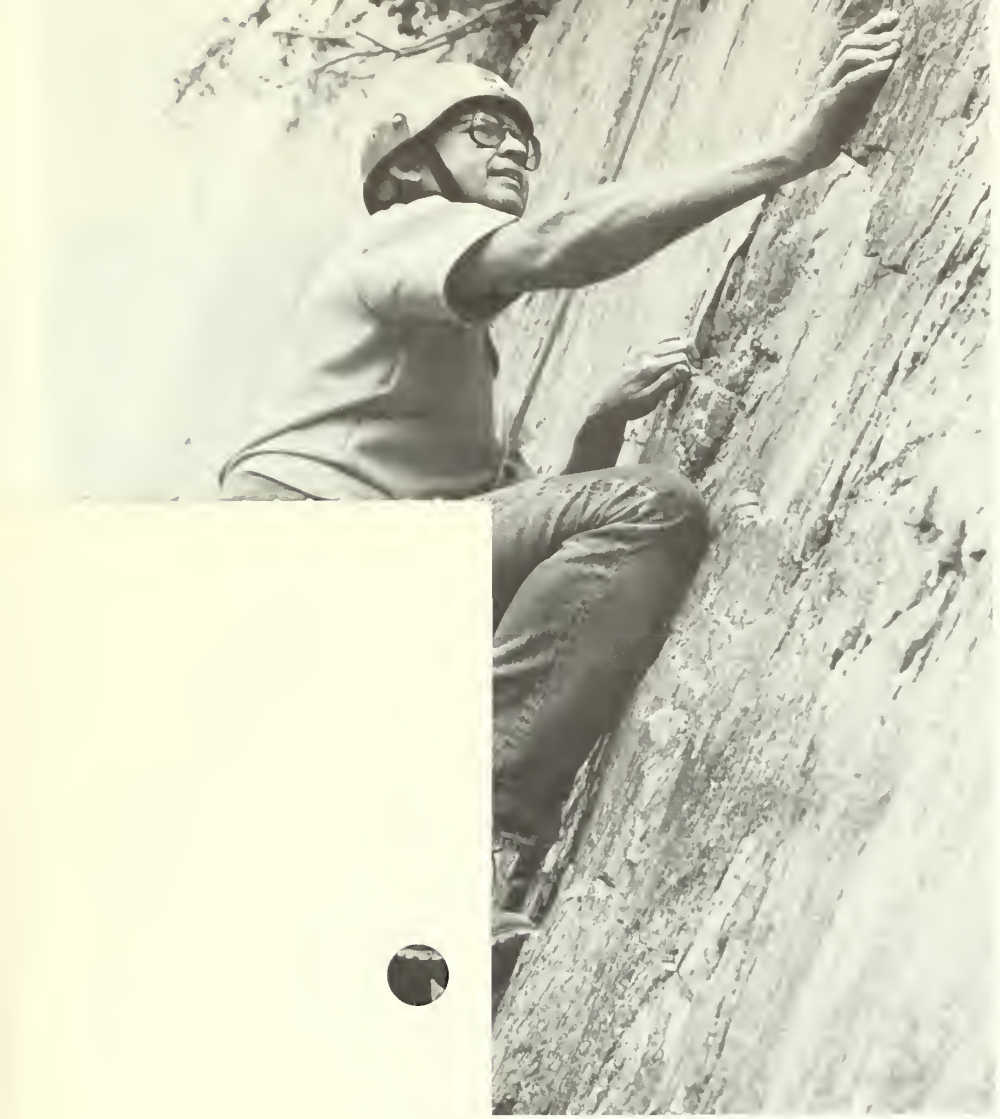
Between accepting the deed to the 272-acre (109 ha) state park and climbing Supremacy Slab, the governor also became the first honorary park ranger in the history of the state, receiving an official badge and uniform which he immediately donned for the climb.

Despite the hoopla, the real star of the show remained the canyon itself. Its acquisition marks the completion of four years of effort and the fulfillment of two important state goals: preserving the climbing rocks and the South Boulder Creek canyon, and establishing an undeveloped and environmentally-oriented park near the Denver metropolitan area.

A Mecca for Rock Climbers

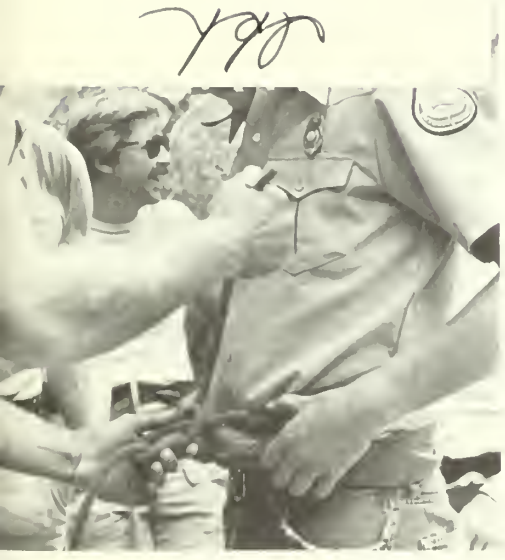
Located in Eldorado Springs between Boulder and Golden, Eldorado Canyon State Park features 600-feet (180 m) rock outcroppings that are a mecca for technical rock climbers from all over the world. "This is one of the main concentrated climbing areas in the United States," climber Mike Munger of Eldorado Springs said. "In fact, it is second only to Yellowstone."

In addition, the history-rich area is one of the few relatively undisturbed canyons along Colorado's Front Range. It offers fishing, hiking, picnicking, and, for the very agile, rock climbing on such romantically named heights as the Bastille, the Whale's Trail, or the Jabber Walk. The park and nearby area produce abundant wildlife and lie near Boulder County open space lands which may lead to increased recreational facilities in the future.



Governor Richard D. Lamm scales 75-foot (7.5 m) Supremacy Slab to open a new state park for rock climbers.

Legislative approval of funding enabled purchase of the famed canyon by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation during 1978. This culminated a four-year effort to make Eldorado Canyon the eighth state park and recreation area to be established since 1975 and the newest in the state's park system.



Colorful History

Though it is the newest of the state parks, the Eldorado area has a history equal to its dramatic geology. In fact, the area was already a well-known resort when a honeymooning Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower visited the "Mountain and Seashore Resort of the West" in 1916.

Certainly one reason was aerialist Ivy Baldwin. Already world-renowned, Baldwin first visited the canyon in the early 1900s and accepted its challenge by rigging a tightrope between its monolithic rocks—582 feet (175 m) above the canyon floor. He made that walk hundreds of times, the last in 1948—at age 82! Baldwin died of natural causes in Eldorado Springs in 1963.

Perhaps another reason for the popularity of the area was the price. For $1.25, a Denver resident in the early decades of the century could take the train to and from Eldorado Springs, where visitors could swim in naturally warm radium water pools, climb the 1,350-foot (405 m) Crazy Stairway to the top of Castle Rock, and hike to Harmon Falls. There also were a roller skating pavilion, open air dancing, and hiking trails from which visitors could view Weeping Rock and Dead Man's Cave.

The coming of the automobile, a flood in 1938, and a fire a year later closed down the resort and brought obscurity to the area. While the state's newest park will not include the old resort buildings, it does include the entire mouth of the canyon.

Public Relations Benefits

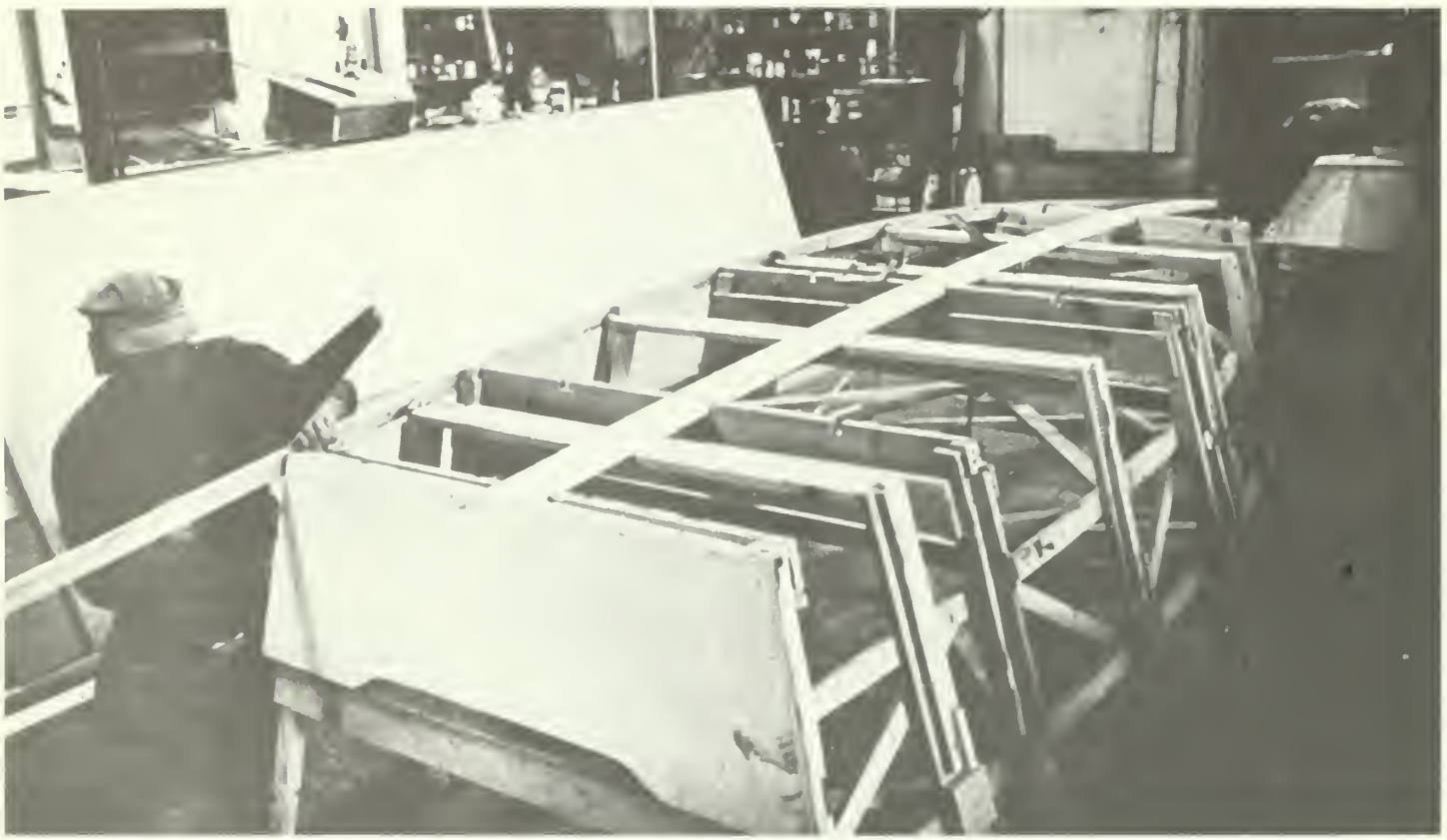
What was the benefit/cost ratio of the unusual opening ceremony? Well, the governor's climb made the front page of both of Denver's daily newspapers, all four Denver television stations, and a host of other media throughout the state. During the first four years of his administration, the governor had never participated in any Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation official function. In the nine months since his climb, he has participated in five other ceremonies.

One final note to anyone seeking to emulate Colorado's successful ceremonies: if you're sending your governor rock climbing, be sure that those who hold the safety lines belong to the same political party as the governor . . . Otherwise, you may discover that you've found a very "innovative" way of selecting a new Chief Executive for your state.

Dale Lashnits is Chief Information Specialist in the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Photos from Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Park Committees (VT)



During winter, rangers help perform maintenance tasks such as boat building, sign making, and equipment repair. VT Dept of Forests, Parks & Recreation

In an effort to improve park operations generally, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is involving park personnel at all levels in its policy and decision-making process.

A cross-section of park employees, including rangers, maintenance technicians, maintenance mechanics, and regional supervisors serve on several different ongoing committees organized to deal with specific park-related problems or issues. Seasonal employees also are encouraged to provide input to the committees.

The Park Policy Committee, for example, recently surveyed the state's park rangers and their assistants on a variety of subjects which involve park employees—ranging from park rules, regulations, and fees, to employee benefits. The committee will make recommendations to the state government based on the survey results.

The Committee to Revise the Ranger's Manual worked closely with the Policy Committee in updating and rewording a 70-page booklet outlining the duties and responsibilities of rangers and their staffs.

To better inform the general public and state government of the many phases of park operations and maintenance, a committee was formed to compile a Park Progress Report. The report is all-inclusive—covering personnel, maintenance projects (recently completed and recommended), park attendance and income, park facility, vehicle and equipment inventories, and special programs.

A Purchasing Committee has been established to devise faster and more efficient ways of obtaining materials and supplies, while staying within an established budget.

The Committee on Park Maintenance and Construction authored, "A Program of Preventative Maintenance," which features maintenance upkeep and repair cost estimates for a detailed inventory of buildings, grounds, equipment, utilities, roads, trails, etc., included in the state park system.

A recent survey conducted by people in the field, which included energy-use figures on buildings, vehicles, and equipment, caused the creation of an Energy Study Committee. This committee will review the results of the survey, investigate the feasibility of using alternate energy sources (such as wood, wind, and solar) in specific situations, and make appropriate recommendations.

To further encourage the exchange of ideas among park personnel, the department publishes a monthly newsletter. "Update," intended essentially as a reader's forum, also includes news from parks throughout the state, committee reports, and letters. "Update's" present editor, a park ranger, invites news and commentary from all department employees.

This article was prepared through the cooperative efforts of the Vermont Division of Parks and Recreation.

Meeting Program & Vandalism Challenges of a Golf Course (RI)

by George Howarth

One of Rhode Island's most heavily used park and recreation areas is Goddard Memorial State Park, consisting of approximately 460 acres (184 ha) located in the City of Warwick. This park was acquired in 1927 as a gift from the Goddard Family with the understanding that the entire parcel forever would be available to the citizenry as a state park.

At the present time, the following recreational activities are available:

1. A salt-water bathing beach approximately 1,500 feet (450 m) long with bathhouse, 500-car parking lot, and food concession stand.
2. A concession-operated riding stable with a peak load of 35 horses and 17 miles (27.2 km) of bridle trail, open year round.
3. A nine-hole golf course on which 37,000 rounds were played in 1978.
4. Several informal play fields and 375 picnic areas.
5. A small skating pond which is extremely popular during the winter months.

During the winter months this area is maintained by an 11-man work force which expands to 21 during peak load summer months. Law and order is maintained by the Division of Enforcement which is a separate agency within the Department of Environmental Management.

Senior citizens' free use of the golf course has limited play for paying users and reduced park revenues. RI Div. of Parks & Recreation

Free Golfing for Senior Citizens

Over the years, changing recreational interests, activities, and behavior patterns have resulted in numerous modifications to the park division's policies. In 1960 a bill was passed by the General Assembly permitting free use of the golf course to Senior Citizens. This program was identified as the "Age 65" group. It proved to be extremely successful and is now at a point where the Senior Citizens have formed their own league and practically monopolize the course. There is no doubt this program renders a much-needed service; but it has limited play for younger age brackets and caused a reduction in revenue received by the park.

How should the park solve this problem? Present thinking is to time-zone course use by Senior Citizens to those hours from 2:00 p.m. till dusk, which will make the course available to paying customers between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This, without a doubt, will create an unfavorable reaction from the Senior Citizens; therefore, substitute activities will be offered during their off-use time. Present suggestions include boccie courts, chess and checker tables, and a 6,000 square foot (540 m^2) parcel where the elderly could demonstrate their talents as amateur ornamental gardeners with material provided by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Coping With Vandalism

Vandalism is another major problem in the Goddard Park area. In spite of extended coverage and patrols by the Enforcement Personnel, it is impossible to maintain total coverage at all times.

On several occasions during the past year, the maintenance crew has reported for work and found that during the night, motor vehicles have raced across the golf course, spun their wheels on the greens, stolen flags, and caused considerable damage to the fairways. No park designer wants to recommend the erection of steel guard rails or boulder barricades. Not only are they unsightly, but they frequently become targets for spray painting graffiti and obscenities which require immediate attention.

The Rhode Island Park Division now plans to construct a modified Tank trap around the entire 9-hole course, thereby limiting vehicle access to not more than four locations at which sturdy,

aesthetically pleasing gates will be erected. The Tank trap construction will entail digging a ditch approximately 3 feet wide (90 cm) by 2 feet (60 cm) deep and depositing excavated material on the vehicle traffic lane side, graded to a steep slope. The golf course side will be graded to a gradual slope (1:20) for ease of mowing and general maintenance. Sandy loam soil conditions within this area should not cause any drainage problems. Since the location of the ditch will be a minimum of 18 feet (540 cm) from the edge of the pavement, there will be ample space for the planting of low-maintenance flowering shrubs and shade trees at strategic locations without creating a sight distance traffic hazard or interfering with snow removal during winter months.

Teenagers Increasingly Involved

Vandalism is by no means limited to the golf course. Park rest rooms, rubbish barrels, and picnic tables are frequently targets. There appears to be a tendency among a small percentage of our present teenager population to demonstrate a total disrespect for property. The glorification of "National Bunk Day" for high school students and their tendency to celebrate by consuming large quantities of alcohol has certainly not helped the situation.

Last year's conditions reached the point where it became necessary to close Goddard Park to all suspicious groups on that day. This action possibly solved an immediate problem but very likely prompted retaliation which resulted in a greater extent of property damage at a later date.

We sincerely believe that many problems are solved by proper and imaginative design. The use or development of natural barriers presents nothing "man-made" to be destroyed and the establishment of high-quality facilities and programs encourage state park use by persons who are seeking a wholesome outdoor recreation experience in a pleasant environment.

George Howarth is a Landscape Architect in the Department of Environmental Management of Rhode Island's Division of Parks and Recreation.

The Challenge of Proposition 13 (CA)

by Russ Cahill

During 1978, Californians celebrated two things: 50 years of state parks and Proposition 13. Following a decade of generous voter support for park bond issues, the state park system was in a major growth mode with twenty new units coming on line in 1979. An annual growth rate of 5 percent was adding three million visitors to the system each year. (63 million people visited our parks in 1978.) The news of stringent cutbacks in the state government set decision-makers off on a search for ways to cope with the lowered dollar expectations.

Initial Responses

One of the first things heard around the survival discussion table was, "Which parks shall we close?" Second was, "Don't open any new ones."

These are normal reactions to fiscal crises in parks and recreation agencies, and so a "hit list" was developed. The list was based on several factors which included the cost of operation and the number of visitors to the parks. This list, although not published, received wide circulation on the duplicating machine network and caused serious discussions to take place from the Governor's office all the way to the maintenance shops in most parks.

Once the gravity of the situation became clear, more rational responses began to appear. Two observations guided us into our eventual course.

1. *During times of fiscal crises, competition for the public dollar heats up.*
2. *The agency which offers the best deal to the public will increase its chance of success.*

A strategy was developed which rated the services of the department on the basis of public service and necessity. In effect, the exercise was akin to taking the department's budget to zero base and restructuring it to meet the fiscal constraints of the future.

Field Units Given Staffing Priority

Early in the process, we decided to attempt to staff the newly purchased and constructed units at minimal levels, but in any event to staff them. By delegating some duties handled by headquarters staff out to field headquarters (the beneficiaries of the people-shifts) and by doing without certain justifiable but not critically needed positions in the headquarters units of the department, we developed a scheme to staff new field units at the expense of central staff.

The next step in this process has been to sell it to state administrators. With the help of Resources Secretary Huey Johnson, our department put together a strategy which showed an *expansion of service* with no new funding. Governor Jerry Brown spent nearly four hours going over the proposal in its detailed form. He looked at charts showing past costs and performance; he asked about costs of operating other park systems; he asked how we would handle employee displacement; and then he approved our plan.

Equitable Distribution of Dissatisfaction System

To deal with the displacement of employees, our Human Resources section devised a system labeled E.D.D. (Equitable Distribution of Dissatisfaction). A general meeting was held with employees, and a promise made, by management, that all employees whose positions were scheduled for movement would be offered equal or better jobs within the department. Due to a hiring freeze and lots of employee cooperation, most of the 100 employees on the list have already shifted to other positions within the department.

At present, we are one of the few agencies of California government which had no "second cut." All took an initial 7 percent cut in June of 1978.

It is my opinion that our success is a result of responding to Proposition 13 by adding services rather than cutting them. The State Legislature is dealing with our budget, at present, and seems satisfied with our response.

Russ Cahill is Director of California's Department of Parks and Recreation.

State Park Day (VT)

How can we encourage more people to use and appreciate their parks and, at the same time, improve public relations? Why not throw a party and invite the public? While this approach might not be feasible for all parks, an annual free State Park Day has become a tremendous success in several Vermont parks.

Each summer, for the past five years, about a dozen parks have hosted a free State Park Day. The park ranger and his or her staff are responsible for choosing the date and program content for the event, which may include games and contests, craft demonstrations, live music, nature walks, a barbecue, evening films, or any number of additional activities.

On State Park Day, visitors are granted free use of all park grounds and facilities. VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Vermont's 46 state parks and forest recreation areas attract more than 1½ million visitors each year. VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

A popular main attraction almost guarantees a good public turnout. Several parks have utilized the Arts In The Parks Program, which features touring artists who are compensated jointly by the park department and the Vermont Council On The Arts. Artists who have performed at State Park Days include folk singers, puppeteers, theatre and dance groups, and rock, country, and bluegrass bands.

Community Involvement

Involving the local community in a State Park Day can greatly enhance the image of the park with area residents. Community groups and civic organizations have provided entertainment and refreshments on several occasions. Local potters, weavers, wood carvers, and blacksmiths have captivated audiences with their skills. Considering the needs and talents of the local community can result in a State Park Day that complements the lifestyles of the area.

Publicity is all important. Illustrated newspaper articles and posters placed in areas frequented by the public will advertise the event well in advance. Radio and television spots add an air of importance to the program a few days before it is scheduled. And an invitation to the press will provide on-the-spot coverage.

However, even with widespread publicity, park personnel report that many families arriving at the park on State Park Day had heard nothing about the event and were prepared to pay the usual fees for the use of the facilities and grounds. Upon learning of the special activities in progress, most visitors were pleasantly surprised, though many found it hard to believe they were being admitted to the park free of charge.

Planning a special day for the public can add a considerable workload to an already busy park. It's time-consuming and usually requires full participation on the part of the park staff. But a successful State Park Day provides its own special rewards.

This article was prepared through the cooperative efforts of the Vermont Division of Parks and Recreation.

Marina Maintenance Team (NM)

by John R. Soper

Since its inception in 1975, the New Mexico State Park and Recreation Division's marina repair and maintenance team has saved the state park system approximately $322 thousand, based on repair costs in years before the program was initiated.

"I feel our underwater marina repair team has been a vital asset to the state parks in New Mexico," said Dave Skasik, repair team chief. "I also believe that through a routine preventive maintenance program, major damage to the state-owned marinas will be minimal and the marinas will be safer for public use."

Early Team Training

The team began in September of 1975 with volunteers from the state park service going through a one-week crash course which included both pool and classroom instruction and a final practical examination, both written and in actual dive situations. The instructors were certified by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (P.A.D.I.).

From September through February, 1976, the dive team concentrated on acquisition of dive equipment, formulation of policies and a dive program, and collection of marina data. However, some emergency situations arose which gave the team good experience in conducting repair dives under stress conditions.

The program actually got underway in February, 1976, when a severe wind storm at Bluewater Lake State Park, near Grants, tore the marina from its anchors. "We made several emergency repair trips to Bluewater that year," Skasik recalled. "It was always for the same problem, broken anchor cables. We finally determined that we needed to adapt the anchor cable winch frames to include a fairlead to reduce cable stress at entry points onto the marina. From my understanding, the manufacturer has since incorporated this feature into his basic marina plans."

Thousands of Dollars Saved

During the period of February, 1976 through November, 1976, the total expenditures on all 23 marina repair jobs performed by the dive team totaled $13,817.36, including $5,479 for materials.

Safety dictates that one diver remain on the surface during all underwater work. NM State Park & Recreation Div.

"Our comparative savings for the first year was $97,105," Skasik said. "That is based on what the repairs would have cost if we had been forced to contract for the service." By the close of the first year, the team had replaced deteriorated underwater structures at all 5 state-owned marinas and had made sure that all the sub-surface structures were in good and tight condition.

During 1977, the team continued its program of spring preventive maintenance dives, changing and upgrading underwater structures on the marinas. Due to a storm in late 1977, considerable emergency repair work was needed at the marina at Navajo Lake State Park near Farmington. This included changing 931 feet (279 m) of slip truss and making other major structural repairs. Materials alone cost $17,600 and 26 project-days, or a total of 1,656 man-hours, were required to do the job.

In 1978, the spring preventive maintenance program went without a hitch. The dive team found all the marinas in good structural condition, except for a few problems at Navajo which the three-man squad was able to repair. During this calendar year, the dive team became involved in the state park system's current Capital Improvement Program. Four projects in the program were charged to the responsibility of the dive team. These projects included installation of new marinas at Heron and El Vado State Parks and relocation and rehabilitation of the existing marinas at Ute Lake and Conchus (North Dock) State Parks. "Had these projects been accepted as originally bid by private contractors," says Skasik, "it would have cost us $241,588 for the work. We did the projects for $145,649 or a net cash savings of $95,939."

"With all the new facilities from the marina Capital Improvement Program package," continues Skasik, "I project $7,850 a year will cover our semiannual underwater preventive maintenance program, based on utilization of our current three divers. However, we are now working toward a mobile marina maintenance program which will include one man to perform above-water inspections and maintenance."

According to Skasik, "This should go a long way toward assuring us of better facility maintenance by the concession operators as well as safer facilities for the boating public."

John R. Soper is an Information Officer in the Park and Recreation Division of New Mexico's Natural Resources Department.

Park Maintenance Management Program (TX)

by R. C. Hauser

The Texas Parks Maintenance Management Program was devised in 1972, based on the following understandings and assumptions:

1. The program was to maintain and preserve the normal service life of every item of real property for the benevolent use of the public served.
2. Real property used in parks will always be subjected to wear rates unlike any other privately or publicly owned property. This fact is based on seasonal wear, intensity of visitation, the variables of human contact time, as well as the universal apathy toward public property, all of which are concepts unique to parks and other outdoor recreation areas.
3. Wear rates imposed on parks' real property always will be unpredictable. This fact dictates that any maintenance program must be structured to respond as effectively as possible, only to the exact current condition of every item of real property.

These understandings and assumptions allowed an effective maintenance plan to be developed, despite the awkwardness of the fiscal structures common to all governmental agencies.

Note that a maintenance program built upon this base almost precludes "preventive maintenance," which by strict definition has no place in parks. Preventive maintenance usually is very expensive and only can be effective to counteract predictable wear rates, such as in heavy industry.

Current Condition Inspection

Our Parks Maintenance Management Program is made up of three major parts, each having subparts. Each year, all the maintenance requirements of all the parts are determined as a result of a current condition inspection. This visual on-site inspection is performed annually by the Regional Maintenance Specialists in the company of the Superintendent of the park being inspected. Quite often, the park's key maintenance-oriented Ranger personnel are involved also.

Daily use care and minor repairs become the responsibility of the park staff.

Expensive maintenance requirements are handled under the major repairs program.

Over a period of years, these inspection records, if properly done, provide an infallible history of the exact condition of that facility over its entire service life. The results of the visual inspection of each item of real property are transposed into maintenance repair tasks, fully described with preliminary estimates. These are entered onto the Budget Control Form, one sheet per task. The magnitude of each task determines which part of the program ultimately will resolve the maintenance requirement after budgetary approval of each program is achieved.

PART I—Operating Budget Maintenance: Minor Repair and Daily Use Care

Maintenance requirements recorded on the Budget Control Form which are of low magnitude or small total dollar value and able to be completed by skill levels available on existing park staff, are placed in each park's annual operating budget. Completion of each task then becomes the responsibility of the park staff, within guidelines supervised by the Regional Maintenance Supervisor. Equipment condition records determine budgeted funds for the repair and upkeep of rolling stock and stationary equipment; separate maintenance and operations forms for sewage treatment plants determine budgeted funds for maintenance and upkeep of these facilities.

PART II—Major Repair Program

All maintenance requirements determined from the current condition inspection which require funding in amounts normally greater than those included in operating budgets, are assigned to the major repair program. The tasks are assigned to the major repair program by the Park Operations and Maintenance Branch. Then they are compiled into a prioritized listing with preliminary estimates and scope sheets,

and given to the Design and Construction Division to be submitted for Commission consideration.

The overall magnitude of the task determines which in-house procedure will accomplish the work. Those tasks of greater magnitude requiring technical input, plans and specifications, or any related engineering function, are assigned to the Design and Construction Division for performance and completion.

Those maintenance tasks which qualify in magnitude to be major repairs, but which can be performed by existing parks staff skill levels and available manhours are reassigned to Park Operations and Maintenance Branch for performance by staff or by a special Force Account procedure.

PART III—Major Repairs/Renovations Which Become Capital Improvements

Those maintenance tasks of such magnitude to be major repairs, but which can best be kept in serviceable condition by replacement or addition of systems or parts of systems, are classified as capital improvements. Such tasks are handled by Parks Division or Design and Construction Division, wherein approval and separate funding is decided on a job-by-job basis. Any such capital improvement which results from a maintenance requirement, once completed, then fits into the normal maintenance program to preserve its service life.

To summarize this program explanation, it is important to note that the program does not distinguish between the inventory values of facilities. The only determinant for generating repair requirements, except for "emergencies," is the exact current condition of every component part of every facility or item of property. A plan that holds to this will automatically set priorities for the timeliness of maintenance scheduling.

R.C. Hauser is Head of the Park Operations and Maintenance Branch of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Photos from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Rehabilitating Overused Picnic Areas (MD)

by Barbara M. Garner

Two heavily used parks in the Maryland Park System have implemented management procedures for rehabilitating overused picnic areas which may be of interest to other agencies.

Both parks have swimming beaches and receive heavy summer use. As a result, ecological damage occurred where large numbers of people gathered around picnic tables. Sandy Point State Park is located on the Chesapeake Bay and Greenbrier State Park on a man-made lake in the Appalachian region of the state. The developed portion of Greenbrier State Park is on a hillside which slopes down to the lake.

At Greenbrier, the day-use beach area was opened to the public in 1966. Initially, all cars which could be parked were allowed into the park, resulting in 36,000 cars and 143,000 people the first summer. The impact on the five-acre (2 ha) day-use beach area was severe. The picnic area suffered most with compaction of the soil, exposure of tree roots, and destruction of understory vegetation. Corrective steps, including the reduction in the number of cars allowed into the park, the construction of swales, and the removal of some of the picnic tables, did not alleviate the problem in the picnic area. A total rehabilitation program was needed.

An Ecological Management and Public Relations Success

In 1974, four contiguous sections of the picnic area were closed to the public. Picnic tables were removed and approximately 2,000 feet (600 m) of snow fence were erected to enclose the total area. Signs were placed inside the snow fence explaining the reasons for the closing, and flyers with the same message were distributed to visitors at the park entrance. To prevent water runoff across the picnic area, water bars were installed. A substantial covering of wood chips was placed over the entire area.

The snow fence remains at the present time. Vegetation has begun to reestablish itself and the area is being watched closely.

Overused Knoll Suffers

At Sandy Point, a park with a vast open and exposed beach and few nearby trees, the picnickers tended to seek out any available shade. A knoll of trees near the beach was a popular location. Eventually, through overuse, the soil became compacted, some of the trees died, and the exposed soil started to erode.

Heavy visitor use brings ecological damage to picnic area. MD Park Service

Temporary closing of the area to visitors restores the natural vegetation. MD Park Service

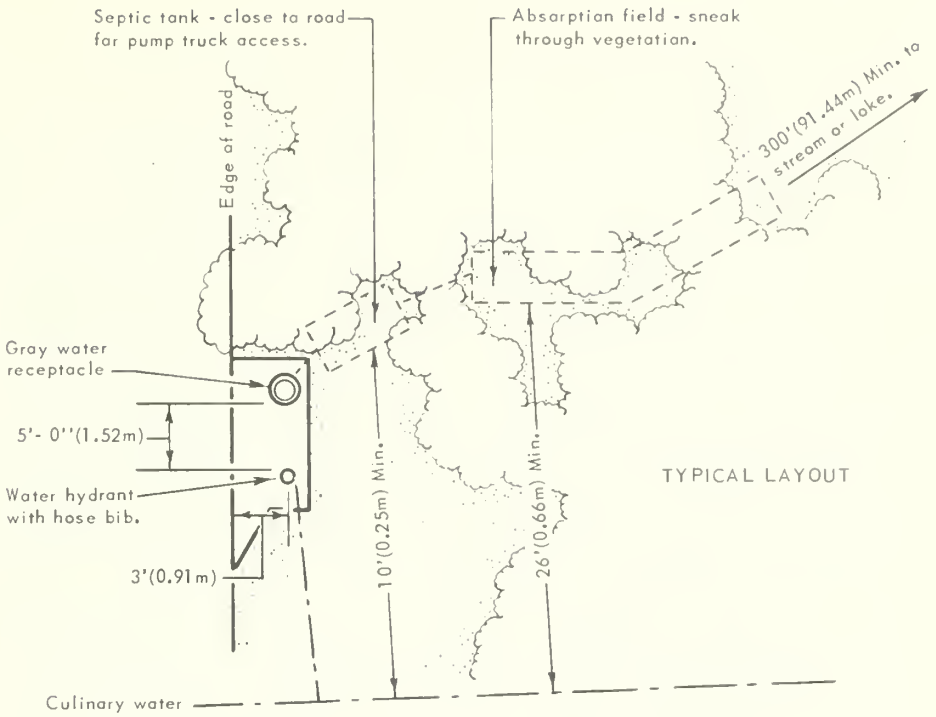
A snow fence was erected, enclosing the two-acre (.8 ha) knoll. The soil was mechanically loosened, nutrients were added, and grass seed was planted. Trees were planted to replace those that had died. A press release was used to explain this action to the public.

The closing of both areas was well-received by the public. As long as visitors were offered an alternative to the closed areas, they were satisfied. Both areas are recovering slowly and each is being watched for eventual reopening. As a management technique, the program has been successful both from the public relations and ecological viewpoints.

Barbara M. Garner is Supervisor of Program Development in the Maryland Park Service

Gray Water Disposal Unit (ID)

by Merl Mews



Each year, as camping use in Idaho State Park campgrounds comes closer to full capacity, the problem of gray water disposal becomes greater. Let us identify gray water here as the waste water generated by campers from other than toilet facilities. It is a problem in all types of campgrounds. In tenting areas, gray water is commonly thrown behind the closest tree. In the trailer and pickup areas, it is allowed to bypass the holding tanks and run out onto the ground next to the camping spur. At any rate, when not controlled in some way, this open disposal of gray water in the camping areas generally destroys the vegetation, degrades the sites, and can become a health problem.

In 1975, the Idaho Parks & Recreation Board passed a regulation that all liquid waste must be held in self-contained units or water-tight receptacles and dumped in sanitary facilities provided for the disposal of such wastes. With the regulation, funds also were allocated for the construction of the disposal facilities. This project was passed to the Development Bureau for implementation.

Initial contacts with the State Health Department indicated there was no facility commonly used for this purpose in Idaho. Other states were contacted to see how they had resolved the problem. Apparently there was no problem-free facility in use at this time that would satisfy Idaho's requirements. However, we did identify problems that other agencies had encountered in the construction of similar facilities.

Based on this information, one of our engineers designed a facility which satisfied the department's requirements and met all the state health and plumbing codes. It can be connected to a central sewage system or installed with its own septic tank and disposal field. The unit itself is made from a modified concrete bell pipe section. It has a removable grate to screen out the larger waste materials and rocks which would plug the drain system.

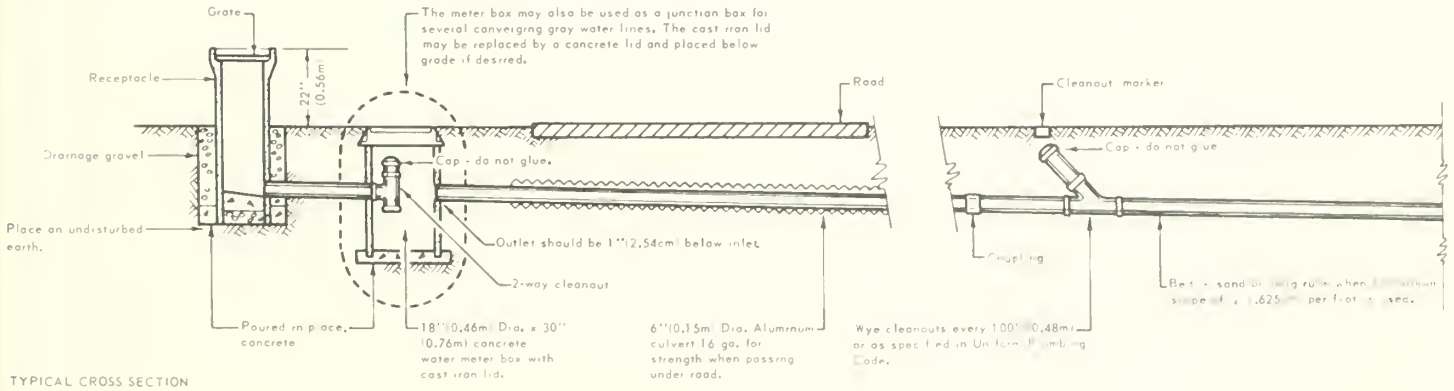
Many of the units were completed this past fall and now are being installed by the department's construction crews. Although they have not yet operated through a complete use season, we feel that they will be a functional facility and allow the department to enforce the Idaho Park & Recreation Board's liquid waste regulation.

Merl Mews is Chief of the Bureau of Development within the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

NOTE: The gray water pipe may be sealed into the receptacle, trap, septic tank and manhole by using a cement mortar or ashphalt cement.

Unless otherwise noted, all gray water pipe is 4" (0.10m) ABS schedule 40 plastic pipe.

TRAP– A sewage line must be trapped according to the Uniform Plumbing Code. If hooking into a sewer line, a trap similar to this one must be used. P-traps are not recommended because of their frequent clogging. If septic tanks are used in the system, this trap is not necessary as long as the septic tank inlet is trapped.



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

Low-Cost Amphitheater (ID)

by Merl Mews

With increasing park visitation and steady growth of environmental education efforts, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation had a pressing need for facilities to house visitor-oriented programs within its state parks. Although the department had long recognized this need, it was difficult to give these facilities priority over such improvements as campgrounds, day-use facilities, and restroom buildings in our small Development Program budget. The problem, then, was to provide program area facilities in destination parks which were attractive, functional, and required a minimal outlay of funds from the Development Program budget.

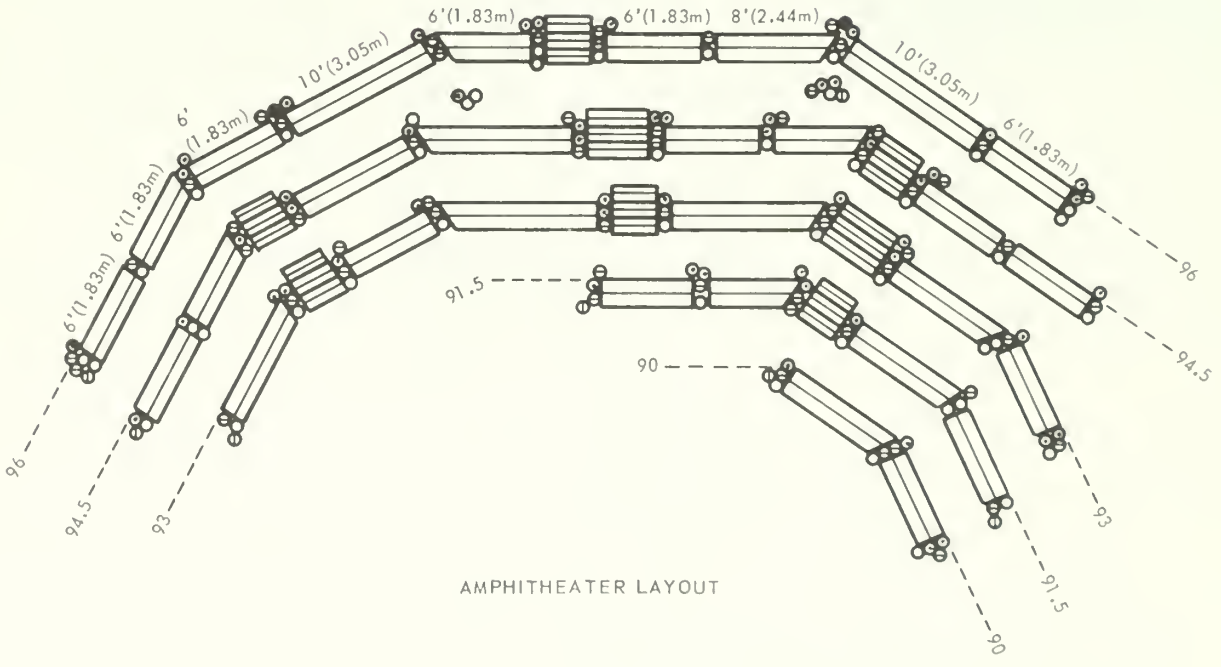
Ponderosa State Park had been identified earlier as having the greatest need for a program area facility, so $3,500 of the Development Program budget was earmarked for the project. This amount included the matching Land & Water Conservation Fund grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. Immediately it became evident that design and construction would have to be completed in-house on a force account basis and that material costs would have to be low.

A site in the park was selected which was centrally situated and met all other location requirements. It was in somewhat of a natural bowl near the shore of Payette Lake, which made it possible for us to utilize the gradual slope of the ground. This we did by installing a series of round posts and timbers into the natural slope of the site.

The posts and timbers all were pressure-treated with a light coat of penta to insure their longevity. Since posts were already cut and treated for use as fence posts, their costs were low. The timbers were obtained from a local saw mill and delivered for treatment to keep their costs within the budget. The only other expenses were for hardware, electrical outlets, and lights.

There was some concern about the penta treatment coming off onto clothes and irritating skin. To avoid these problems, we requested a lighter treatment of the timbers by the treatment company. We also worked fine sand into those areas which had excessive amounts of penta. These safeguards, plus exposure to the elements for one winter, made the facility fully usable the following season. The amphitheater proved to be a functional facility well-accepted at Ponderosa State Park.

Merl Mews is Chief of the Bureau of Development within the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.



AMPHITHEATER LAYOUT

SYMBOLS FOR POSTS

- 12'(3.66m) Posts - 9'(2.74m) above ground
- 7'(2.13m) Posts - 3'- 6"(1.06m) above ground
- 7'(2.13m) Post - 3'(0.91m) above ground
- 7'(2.13m) Posts - 1'- 6"(0.46m) above ground
- 7'(2.13m) Posts - 1'(0.30m) above ground

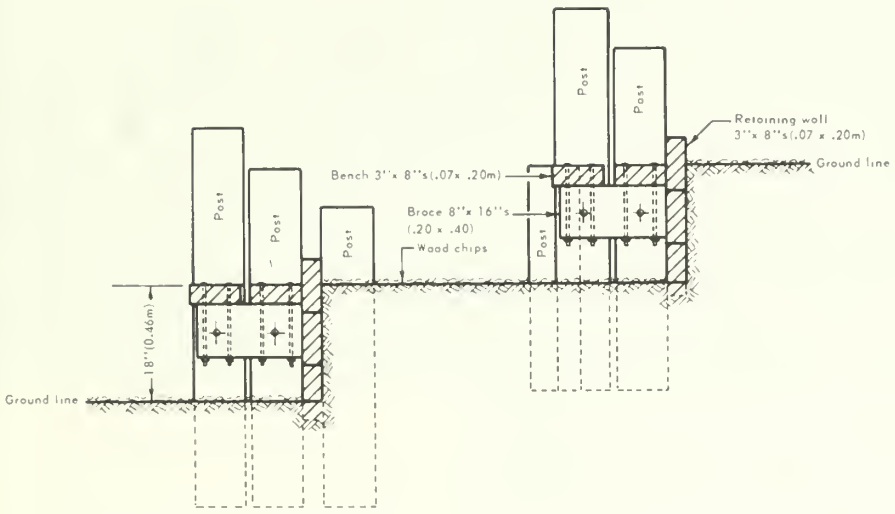
NOTES:

Dimensions at top of top row of benches indicate lengths of benches.

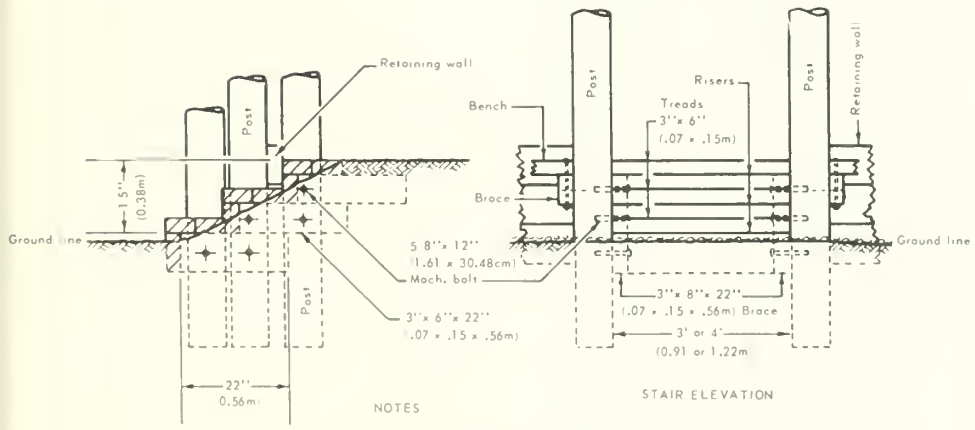
Figures at end of each row of benches indicate hypothetical slope situation.

Space rows of benches 3' or 4'(0.91 or 1.22m) apart.

Stairs are 3' and 4'(0.91 and 1.22m) wide.



BENCH SECTION



STAIR SECTION

STAIR ELEVATION

NOTES

Steps, 3"x 6"s .07 x .15m) fastened with 40d nails.

Bottom brace & risers 3"x 8"(.07 x .20 x .56m
All others are 3"x 6"(.07 x .15m .

Hand-Carved Signs Welcome Visitors (AR)

by Sallie Houser

It has often been said that first impressions can be the most important in forming lasting opinions. If this is so, the Arkansas State Parks Division has surely established good relationships between park visitors and state parks from the moment the visitor comes into visual contact with a park entrance sign. They are not the usual entrance signs you would expect to see going into a city limits, but visually exciting, lifelike displays containing hand-carved characters and scenery indicative of the history, setting, and unique features found within the parks.

These hand-carved signs have not always been a part of the Arkansas State Parks' sign system; in fact they have only been in existence since 1972. The idea of hand-carved wooden entrance signs was conceived in the middle of 1971 when Buddy Surles, then Director of Arkansas State Parks, first met Harley Albert Lane—"Hal"—an instructor and wood-carver at the School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO. Surles saw a sign Hal had carved and said that was the type of sign he would like to see at the entrance of state parks. Mr. Lane was offered a position with the Arkansas State Parks Division in December of 1971 as an artist and "idea man." In the spring of 1972, the first of many hand-carved, wooden entrance signs was completed for what was then Buffalo River State Park. It was mounted at the entrance of that park and hung there until 1973 when the park became Buffalo National River, part of the National Park System.

Using Staff Woodcarver Lowers Costs

From 1972 to the present, Mr. Lane and his various assistants have completed a total of 44 signs, including trail entrance signs, historical signs, and scenic overlook signs.

The cost associated with the designing, carving, and mounting of these imaginative signs has increased four-fold since 1971. But their expense over the past 7 years has been nominal compared to what it would cost to have the signs commercially commissioned. For example, a typical entrance sign,

commercially done, amounts to some $7,500. By creating our signs within the parks system, with a qualified park artist designing and carving, the cost runs on the average of $1,300 to $1,900 per sign, including labor and supplies.

These figures do fluctuate depending on the size of the sign, specific design detail, how involved the individual carving will be, and other labor costs such as mounting. The majority of our signs are 4' x 12' (120 x360 cm) and all are made of western cedar. It takes on the average between 180 and 200 hours to complete a sign, from initial drafting of designs to the finishing touches on carvings. The one that has been most time-consuming is the entrance sign at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, which took a total of 350 hours to complete and features almost life-size carvings of both Union and Confederate soldiers.

AK Dept. of Parks & Tourism

Statewide Standards Established

Problems associated with implementing these signs throughout the system have not been major. When the signs were first started, there were no design standards for their mounting. In 1978, due to the efforts of many state park personnel, the *Arkansas State Parks Design Standards* was published. Specific guidelines for state parks' entrance signs and their mounting were included.

Randy Doyle

These guideline standards cover construction materials, sign placement, special problem areas and solutions. However, they leave enough leeway for exceptions due to things such as regional differences of available material. The signs are mounted in a base of either creosoted ties or stone, whichever is appropriate for the region.

Much of the success of our park entrance signs has to be attributed to the artistry and craftsmanship of Mr. Lane. He has certain philosophies that guide him. When selecting a theme for a sign, he says nostalgia plays an important role. People-oriented subjects and specific park features are his main consideration in creating designs. After he has formulated what he and park representatives consider the best designs, a committee composed of the Parks Director and his top administrators have final approval.

In establishing the entrance signs throughout the Arkansas Parks System, Hal Lane and others have wanted to emulate a fashion, not copy one. Their ideas in park signs have been appreciated by millions of park visitors and have innovated an important visual association for the Arkansas State Parks.

Sallie Houser is Administrative Assistant to Richard W. Davies, Director of the State Parks Division of Arkansas' Department of Parks and Tourism.

A Grab Bag of Parking Tips (ME)

by Jim Mehoke

• State Park Signs

All of Maine's state park signs are made by Joe Forti, District Supervisor headquartered at Camden Hills State Park. Joe makes the signs at the Camden Hills woodworking shop during the winter, using salvage lumber from state park land. He estimates the savings to the state park system to be about 60 percent.

When park trees are marked by state foresters for salvage, they are cut, hauled, and stored for five years to dry. Park manager requests for signs go through district supervisors to Operations and Maintenance Division personnel who confer with the Engineering Division. Approved requests then go to the drafting section which makes paper templates. All templates then go to Camden Hills State Park.

Dry logs are taken to the sawmill to be cut and milled. At the Camden Hills woodworking shop, the templates are placed on wood blanks and transferred with carbon paper to the wood. Then the carbon deposit is routed out. Finally, the signs are sanded and stained to finish.

• Camp Site Roll Call

District Supervisor Wentworth Burnham reports that a roll call system has been in effect for some time at Lake Sebago State Park. The roll call eases the problem of getting camp sites for visitors and provides added convenience for visitors and park personnel alike.

If the park's 287 sites are filled when a visitor calls at the gate, he is told he may sign the roll of those waiting for sites and then is directed to a nearby private campground. The next day at one o'clock p.m., all those who have signed the roll return to hear names read off over the public address system. It is always quiet enough to hear a pin drop because if a name is not answered, it is scratched.

Vacant sites are filled in the order that the names are signed on the roll. If you are number 38 at a roll call that permits 20 new sites to be filled, you will be number 18 at the next day's roll call.

This system allows a fair allotment of camp sites with a minimum of difficulty.

Lake Sebago State Park attracts many summer campers. ME Dept. of Conservation

• Preprinted Information Slips

Sam Cox, District Supervisor headquartered at Two Lights State Park, has devised a way to handle visitor requests for information that is both fast and clear. He prints material up ahead of time.

From experience, Sam knows that certain questions are going to be asked of his personnel. Visitors always want to know where campgrounds, the airport, points of interest, and shopping centers are. He writes out clear directions to these places and numbers them separately.

Then he makes a dummy for the printer to use. He divides a piece of typing paper down the middle lengthwise and across at inch and a half (3.75 cm) intervals. This gives him 14 divisions of space—an inch and a half (3.75 cm) high and four inches (10 cm) long—in which to print his numbered directions.

Next Sam numbers the dummy spaces with the number of the direction he wants for each space. He weighs these to get printed more of those directions that are highest in demand among visitors. Airport directions may get only one space while campground directions may get five or six spaces on the dummy.

When the printer sends back the printed pages, Sam cuts them up into slips and distributes the slips into boxes ready for use at conveniently placed locations.

Jim Mehoke is an Information Writer in the Department of Conservation of the State of Maine.

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

The goal of TRENDS, as you know, is to help make your job a little easier . . . to provide you with useful, up-to-date technical assistance in the broad field of park management and operations.

But, to do this effectively, we need feedback. The work we do here, the issues of TRENDS we plan, are only as good as our lines of communication with our readers.

Ideally, I'd like to sit down with each and every one of you—to learn more about you, identify your specific "parking" needs, and determine how TRENDS can best help you meet those needs. If I had such a chance, I'd be interested in such information as where you're from . . . the type of agency or organization you're involved with (local, regional, state, national, university, etc.) . . . just what your job entails . . . and what skills are required of you presently and for growth and career development.

As we talked, I would urge you to share with me your general reactions to TRENDS . . . whether it is helpful to you and your staff . . . whether you feel it represents *usable* technical assistance and reference information . . . whether or not you pass it along to others in your office . . . how much of the magazine you generally read.

Then I would question you further about specifics . . . things you particularly like or dislike about TRENDS . . . areas you feel might be strengthened . . . articles or issues you found most interesting and/or helpful within the past few years . . . and those of little interest or value to you.

Your opinions regarding the balance and variety of articles in TRENDS would be most welcome . . . whether you would prefer longer, in-depth features or more, shorter articles . . . whether you like the present thematic approach of TRENDS or would appreciate more variety within each issue . . . whether you would retain the present art/copy balance or would prefer more or fewer illustrations . . . whether you would like to see more or fewer—

- Do-it-yourself articles
- Philosophical or idea-oriented features
- Articles about federal legislation and programs of relevance to park and recreation agencies
- National park features
- State and local park features

Obviously, such a personal chat is impossible. But I would like to strengthen our lines of communication.

Your days, I know, are full and busy. But you truly would help us serve you better if you could take the time to write and share your opinions with us.

Please let us know how you feel about such matters as those referred to above. Tell us more about yourself and what we can do to help you solve your on-the-job "parking problems" . . . and try to do it now, while this appeal is fresh in your mind.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Goodell
Managing Editor
Park Practice Program

P.S. Please address your comments to:

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Division of Federal and State Liaison
National Park Service
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Washington, DC 20240

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